

THE

ILLUSTRATED

RAMBLER,

AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY.



Lotta.



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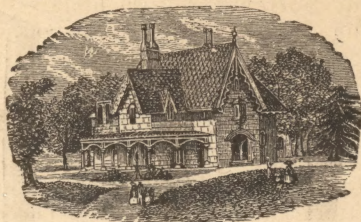
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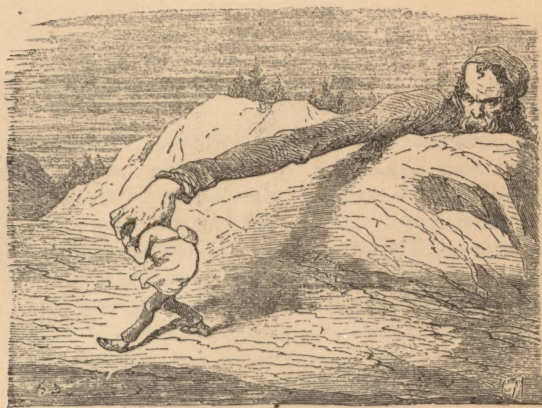
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GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

EDITOR OF HARPER'S WEEKLY.

When some weeks ago, at the request of the editor of this journal, we commenced to write a series of articles upon prominent institutions and people who might be deemed to be legitimate objects of satire, we had formed no adequate idea of the favor with which these articles would be received, or of the interest which they would awaken. Already our portfolio is filled with requests that we will present various more or less well known individuals to the public, and it is flattering to us that we should be credited with so much knowledge about so many men and things. It would seem that many readers place us in the same category with the much enduring Ulysses. "Andra moi, ennepe, mousa polutropon, hos mala polla," &c., as Homer sings in stately Ionic hexameters. The readers of the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY indeed appear to consider us to be both the "muse" who "relates," and the "much enduring man who has seen many things." But now and then there comes a request which is consonant with our knowledge and our desires; and when it comes to Geo. Wm. Curtis, we lack neither the information, nor the will, to sketch him in such colors that he may be clearly seen by the public eye.

As a very young man we first find him at Brook Farm. He was one of a small coterie of Eastern Massachusetts enthusiasts, or shall we say fanatics, who considered, or expected to consider, it the highest wisdom to abjure current society, and "cultivate the rustic muse upon an oaten straw." To the number of ten or a dozen they retreated to a farm-house, and went during one season through the toilsome gamut of New England hill farming. Their ambition was to hoe potatoes and harvest rye all day, and write transcendental poems and moonlighted essays all night. It is needless to say that on all sides their venture failed. They raised bad crops, and added very little to the stock of New England letters, and what they did add was worse than their abortive potatoes and their smutted rye. Some of the participators in this sickly enterprise were immortalized under feigned names by Hawthorne, but Curtis was not among these. Hawthorne did not consider Curtis to be worthy of mention, and so he passed unnoticed. Then he went on his travels in the East.

The result of these travels was a book entitled "The Howadji" that brought its author into some notice, and even repute, among a certain class of readers. Those were the days when the "Reveries of a Bachelor" was considered a masterpiece of literature, and ran through a hundred editions in eighteen months. There were people then who called Cooper a great novelist, and it was such an audience as they composed who admired Curtis' book. In fact this book is one to be ashamed of. Its themes are low and sensual. Its imagery is gross and inflated. Looking

over at the orange trees at Sorrento, across the water, in the evening, he depicts the oranges themselves as "permanent planets in that delicious dark." If it is ridiculous to compare planets with oranges, it is equally ridiculous to compare oranges with planets. This absurd flight of rhetoric run mad is but a single example selected from many. It is to the credit of American letters that the "Nile notes of a Howadji" is nearly out of print, and that the few surviving copies sleep, uncalled for and unread, on public library shelves.

In the "Potiphar Papers" Curtis did the only good work which he has ever done in his life. This work appeared at the right time, material was plenty, and any observer with a facile pen such as no one disputes that Curtis possesses, must have written substantially as he wrote. New York had just then begun to grow rich. Parvenues by the hundred were building houses on Fifth Avenue, and moving into them from Hudson street and Horatio street, and giving parties. The guests for these parties were mainly supplied by one Brown, sexton and pew-opener of Grace Church, who farmed out young dandies by the hundred at so much per head. At the house of a certain Sam Perry, a cheese-factor from Herkimer County, between the present location of the New York Club and Delmonico's a gang of these rude and drunken dancing boys knocked off the necks of champagne bottles on the marble tops of his beaufets, and what they were too tipsy to pour into the glasses flowed away on the costly carpets. The host and hostess, qualified by education to manage a dairy, looked on and believed they were seeing "Life." In another superb house a groom and bride received the congratulations of very much such a bevy of friends as the young men whom we have just described. The groom pinched the arm of the bride, as Touchstone might have trifled with Audrey, when he "pressed in among the country copulatives," and the bride was heard to say, "Be quiet, Charley, or I'll give you fits." Of such was the kingdom of New York society. Such were the people by whom Curtis was invited, and whom he satirized with effect in the "Potiphar Papers."

An event now occurred which changed the current of his life, and was largely efficient in making him the hack writer whom our readers know. He formed a co-partnership with one Miller under the firm style of Miller & Curtis for the purpose of publishing books and a magazine. His father-in-law, Mr. Shaw, whose daughter Curtis had just married, invested ten thousand dollars in the firm, intending to be a "special partner," and under the New York statute, only liable to lose that amount. But the details were left to Curtis, and the legal formalities prescribed by the statute were omitted. The firm soon failed, and Mr. Shaw found himself liable for all the debts, amounting to seventy-five thousand dollars. Although not a rich man, Mr. Shaw was a man of honor and he paid the debts, although it cost him immense sacrifices. It is to the credit of Curtis that he appreciated the burdens his carelessness had laid upon his father-in-law and cast about for the means of repaying him. He became a hack-writer for the Harpers' and has ever since so continued.

He had previously, in his earlier days, and in wantonness of youth, done some creditable work for *Harper's Magazine*. Let the curious reader take up the earlier volumes of that periodical, which Mr. Vanderbilt binds in half-morocco and calls a library, and he will find a series of clever sketches, good enough to have appeared in THE RAMBLER, only that in those days THE RAMBLER as yet was not, of which the best is entitled "Who Breaks, Pays." The sketches gave hints of great promise, but later events show that they were the fruit and not the blossom; and at that day Curtis had touched the maximum of his

literary efforts. He has written nothing since so good, and never will write anything so good.

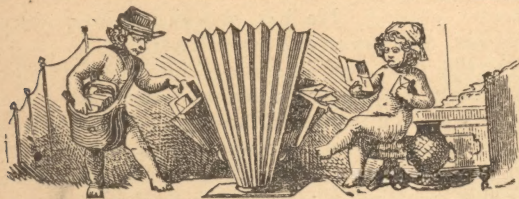
At this time, too, he entered into the Fremont campaign with great warmth. We heard his maiden speech in the Fremont cause, in a Staten Island school-house. It was a reasonably well-made effort, and seemed better than it really was, because contrasted with two wretched speeches by Theodore Winthrop and John E. Parsons. Winthrop is dead, Parsons is a sharp religious lawyer; both of them soon after that "opening load" discontinued making speeches; but Curtis went on and on forever; and Fremont carried, we think, one State. Did he, or did he not? We are not writing Fremont's life, and are not ashamed to acknowledge that we really know very little about him.

At precisely what time Curtis began to be a candidate for Governor of New York, it is difficult to state. In order to be a capable Governor of so large a State, one should know something of affairs and men. It is not enough that one writes a florid style, and is evilly disposed toward the people of the Southern States. George William Curtis is as rabid as to the Southern people, as Eugene Lawrence is rabid toward the Pope of Rome and the Catholic Church; and we should as soon vote for Lawrence for Governor as Curtis. A more unfit man for the position could not be found among the educated adults of the State. But his party will never nominate him for that office, or any other office. They know him too well. They keep him to make opening speeches at conventions, abounding with showy rhetoric and cheap affectations of patriotism, but when it comes to a selection of candidates, our hero takes a back seat. He once ran for Congress in Richmond County, and he will never run again, at least not while his party have sufficient memory to remember a defeat that was phenomenal and monumental.

The significance of the career of George William Curtis as related to our character sketches in THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY, is that he represents, typically, the political hack-writer not only of the period, but of all time, since journalism has been a profession. Aided by the caricaturist, Thomas Nast, he has, during twenty years, persistently traduced the Southern people and the Northern Democracy. His path through life is scandalously illustrated by a series of some two thousand vulgar tirades against phantom political and sectional evils of his own imagination. As the brothers of Hop-o'-my-thumb were traced by the pebbles which they dropped while going through the forest, so can Curtis be traced through the tedious wilderness of *Harper's Weekly* by his iterative diatribes against Democracy and the South, each as like the other as the water-worn pebbles of the brook. To these dreary Philippics there is no let up. It sometimes occurs to us that the Harpers keep them in paragraphs in electrotype, to save both writer and type-setter the fatigues of composition. Supplemented by the vulgar and ferocious caricatures of Nast, the weekly leaders of Curtis terrify the trembling rustics of Vermont, northern New York and Maine, with fears of Ku-Klux and Southern invasion; and many a mountaineer of the Adirondacks and lumber dealer of Bangor, devoutly thanks Heaven that the office of *Harper's Weekly* lies between them and the infuriate bands of Southern shot-gun practitioners and New York City Democrats.

In personal appearance, Mr. Curtis is unfortunate. He sits, stands and goes about with mouth wide open; his figure is slouching, his gait awkward; his entire make-up is flavored with rustic simplicity. This is not explained or atoned for by scholarship. If he knows small Latin, he knows less Greek; his sole social accomplishment was that he was a good round-dancer, and age has robbed him of this dubious advantage. In conversation he is far from brilliant. He unites in an abnormal degree the disabilities of a pedant and a ploughboy; and while he aims to be Sir Charles Grandison he fails even to be Tar-tuffe.

JOHN BLACKBRIDGE.



CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICE.—Correspondents will please forward their letters to reach the editorial office of this paper *before Saturday* of each week. All letters should be addressed to RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY, 37 Dey Street.

Correspondents will please write every week. If nothing is going on, theatrie, operatic, or variety, in any place, so much the more reason to let it be known, so that the gap may be filled up. Let your motto be, "If you have nothing to say, say *something*."

Some of our inaudible correspondents will shortly be removed unless they wake up and do something. We take great pleasure in expressing our obligations to the large majority of our correspondents, and will cheerfully mail the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY to them without exception, on their promise *not to lend it*. Any man that lends a newspaper, except to a hospital or poor-house, is a public enemy.

Correspondents will please send *soon* complete lists of the various Theatres, Opera Houses and Halls in their respective localities. The favor will be gratefully acknowledged.

Good advertising canvassers are wanted for cash commissions.

CHICAGO, ILL.

9th.—With the thermometer way up in the nineties it is remarkable how the theatres do anything at all, but they nevertheless.

The Banker's Daughter has had remarkable houses at Haverley's, and Col. Jack is glad of it. The more I see of this performance the better it pleases me; the setting is excellent and the gentlemen are mostly good. I must say that I do not fancy Matt Lingham's way of doing Count Caropac; he seems to have the wrong idea of it; no gentleman would force a fight in the deeply villainous way he does. Why we should hardly expect a rough of the slums to be so "spoiling for a muss," yet withal Lingham is a good actor, has been in his day a bright light. Charlie Thorne has the best idea of what a man should be under the circumstances I think I ever saw. He has also a peculiar faculty of forgetting himself, which Jim O'Neil never had. John Parselle is the model of a wealthy man, and is the best on the stage to-day—he has made a host of friends with us. Stoddart, too, as Babbage is excellent, but he always had a faculty of speaking too low, you can hardly hear him back of the parquette. Joe Polk has hit off his Phipps very nicely, but it is not a bit natural. I don't believe there is a man alive that travels for house, like that character; in fact I know Bronson Howard and Cazauran never saw one like it. I know thousands of commercial travellers (belonging as I do to the C. T. A.) and I never saw one, be he ever so much the d—n fool, that acted like G. W. Phipps. Howard, old boy, you are off your caboose in that line, try something else but let business men alone, and don't fool with edged tools. Walden Ramsey, too, has improved since last he came to us and we now rather like the boy, he is a little weak yet, but as he obtains years he will improve.

Of the the ladies in the cast I must say they are very weak. Ellie Wilton tries her level best, but that does not fill the bill; it is a terrible effort for her, and I am sure she fully realizes the weight she has to carry, and I feel for her, for it must be very embarrassing and all that, but why is the company so weak in this particular; everything Miss Wilton does in the play is forced and unnatural. Miss Maude Harrison is rather better in her role of Florence, taking more pains and getting on better because the role is suited to her. She has the faculty of doing various little by play catches which are so nicely worked into the role that the audience smile, actually smile! Mrs. Phillips is a very quiet orderly Aunt Fanny, that is all that can be said, but the fact still remains that the ladies are weak.

As a whole the play is well given throughout and pleases the general public, that's what it is done for, anyhow. There is one more thing I would like to mention: is it not singular that a child 8 years old, of a rich family, can't read and spell the simplest words correctly? what was Howard or Cazauran thinking of when they let this palpable fault pass; the audience see it every night and ridicule the idea.

Hooley has had hard luck with the Wallack Comedy

Company. Last week they did not draw at all, and they fairly murdered the Ticket of Leave Man, yes, actually killed the poor cuss. It does seem strange that Frank Aiken and Owen Fawcett can't act; they have been at it for many years now and should know how, but Aiken did not do Bob Brierly in his old time vigor. Frank was once the best Bob that ever stepped on the boards at Wood's Museum, and played the part 140 nights in succession, to crowded houses. All that has gone now and he simply ambles through the part. Owen Fawcett was the veriest clown as Green Jones. The rest of the company were simply terrible, but they had never been together before—that may be a good excuse.

Monday evening "A Scrap of Paper" was put on, with the same company in the cast, and I must say it was simply terrible the way they went into that frothy little French play. Oh, my! but they slaughtered it. Jim Wallack went out on the sidewalk in front to cool his fevered brain because they were doing the work so poorly. Frank Aiken, as Couramont, was not so bad, but he seemed to drag through the part. Fawcett, as Briseimouche, was miserable, he did not care whether he played or not, and Rainforth made the veriest ass of Anatole. But the man who played the Baron (R. Murray) was about the worst impersonation yet seen here, he was a perfect stick, and made the Baron a boor instead of a gentleman. Of the ladies in the cast the least said the better. Miss Rogers was only fair as Suzanne. I do not think she is suited for the stage anyhow she can not play a single role well—that is any I have ever seen her in, and I've seen several. Friend Wallack should reorganize his company and leave her out, as well as some others. Miss Sherwood as Louise is so-so, inane to a great degree. The Mathilde of Miss Barrett was very fair; and Mrs. Wallack as Zenobie is good enough.

Of the play, it is one of those frothy nothings that make no impression whatever, and much is lost in the translation, but with a good company, such as Lester had when it was done in New York, it could be made to go. There was a large audience the first night and the were not pleased at all with the play. This house is now closed for two weeks and opens August 25th with J. C. Fryer's Opera Co. in *Fatinitza*, which will be followed by the Little Duke; the company remaining two weeks till Sept. 6th. R. M. Hooley is away with his minstrels during this period.

At Hamlin's Theatre we have had Edward Arnett doing his two plays I spoke of, *Victims of Faro* and *Tale of Two Cities*, in the most elegant Bowery fashion. This house is the Bowery of Chicago, and you can get it done up in fine style. They are giving us *Ruthven, the Vampire* this week, with Ed Arnett as the star. A very fair audience greeted the piece the first night, but there was some sort of muss among the company and it was only half finished and the curtain rung down amid the groans and hisses of the crowd. Hamlin should return and fix it up.

McVicker has put out the lights on the "Engaged" company, and perhaps it was just as well for he has gotten all there was in it. Four weeks is a very good run for such a piece, and he had fair audiences to the last.

We have a theatre on the West side known as the Halstead Street Opera House in which Jim Nixon gives for 10 cents, all the great plays of the day or any other day for that matter. He is now doing *Lucretia Borgia*, and his regular patrons, the servant girls, are delighted.

The Academy of Music is closed for the summer months, so is the Metropolitan and Globe Theatres. The National Theatre on Clybourne Avenue is just such another as the Halstead Street Opera House. Ten cents takes you in to see *Mother and Son*, or *Hamlet*.

The West End Opera House is closed, and so is the Twenty-second Street Theatre, but by Fall they will probably all be running. The new music hall is progressing towards completion slowly. Manager Carpenter expects to open it Nov. 1st with some big star; he is looking for one in the concert field of art. Carlotta Patti may be in the scheme yet.

Jim Nixon has engaged Sam Lucas for his *Uncle Tom* scene which will be put on the road this fall.

Barron of the *Inter Ocean* has returned to the city, fresh from a two weeks' vacation, and he will now carve up the Union Square and other companies with a will.

Horace McVicker has reached home with his grip-sack full of engagements for the house next season.

Will J. Davis has been doing a tremendous business with the Church Choir Pinafore Company all through the northwest; they are now in Rockford and Peoria for four nights.

Charles Andrews (a nice boy), who was Haverly's assistant business manager last winter and spring, has returned from San Francisco, where he has had the Remenyi Concert Party. They did not do much business, but had lots of fun. Mr. Andrews goes to New York now for Col. Jack, and will be seen about the Lyceum as ticket agent and all that sort of thing. He is a nice boy, and you'll all like him, for he is a perfect gentleman.

Manager McVicker is resting for a few weeks in the White Mountains, with his family.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

5th.—This time of the year our Opera House is visited but little by the Profession, and yet think a good company occasionally, with popular pieces, could do a good business. Managers and Agents can invariably trust to the advice of our able and accommodating Manager of the Opera House, Mr. Wm. McKeown. His long experience in this business has made him an infallible judge as to what prices should be charged. Being one of our most enterprising and reliable citizens, his word may be depended on, as he will never give advice merely to profit the Opera House.

The Opera House here is considered by the profession to be one of the finest finished, best equipped, and most commodious as to stage and dressing rooms in North Western Ohio, and when troupes of merit visit us they are liberally patronized, as we have a large element in our community fond of the Drama and Music. Recently the most intelligent and refined of our beaux and belles have formed a Dramatic and Musical Association. There is no doubt (in their minds) talent among them which will no doubt make the star of Sarah Bernhardt pale before the rising luminaries. At some future time I may give you the *personel* of this school of rising artists. For the present I bid you adieu, assuring you that the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY is getting to be the favorite here for Dramatic and Musical news.

QUINCY, ILL.

7th.—Show business here at present is extremely dull. Both houses are being overhauled and refitted generally for the coming season.

Fatima, the living half lady has been on exhibition here the past three days to good business.

Cooper, Bailey & Co's Great London Circus, and Sanger's British Menagerie will pitch their tents in this city on Aug-23d. As this is pronounced *the* show of the season, they no doubt will exhibit to crowded tents.

The Opera House will be opened Sept. 5th, with Sol Smith Russell and the Berger Family as the attraction.

NORFOLK, VA.

4th. To use Bunsby's phrase, your paper is a paper as is a paper, just the thing, and gotten up in a style to reflect credit on your energy and enterprise.

Just now the "heated term" kills theatricals. Tucker keeps open his Variety Hall as an adjunct to trade. The Opera House, under the new management, is being overhauled and remodeled for the fall season, and, ere this, J. Ford and W. T. Powell, of Richmond, have completed their combinations for the season.

Our old friends of the dramatic profession will find us at the *Public Ledger* office, where we will be glad to "shake" and do all in our power to help the cause.

As an old dramatic critic and local, we never say "anything to extenuate, or set down aught in malice"—square to the front.

We will publish the "Journal of Thespiis" this season as the official sheet of the Opera House, serving all companies coming this way the expense of programming the city.

The season at the Opera House will open about the 15th of September with a company of "Pinafores," under W. T. Powell's management.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

5th.—Powers' Opera House closed.

Luce's Hall closed.

Varieties. The Si Salem combination occupied this house during the week, playing to good houses. Fair show.

Btts.—Mr. C. J. Whitney has leased Powers' Opera House for another year. Mr. Jos. J. Levy, the well-known business manager for this house during the past year, has severed his connection, and will go with the Gotthold Octoroon Co. the coming season, in what capacity I know not. His position here will be filled by Mr. W. H. Powers.

It is Mr. Whitney's intention to bring nothing but the very best in the way of traveling combinations here the coming season, and the news will be well received by our theatre goers.

Grand Rapids has fifty thousand inhabitants, and one first-class theatre.

Miss Inez Sexton, late of the Oates Opera Company, is spending the summer at her home in this city.

Prof. Geo. J. Anderson, claiming to be from New York, wrecked the treasury of a local company in "Solon Shingle," at Luce's Hall, July 31st. He is a theatrical fraud. He goes from here to Georgia. He should go to Memphis.

Barnum has invaded the State; he will be at Grand Rapids on the 6th inst.

Smith's Opera House was running last week to decidedly poor houses. A good novelty theatre would pay in this city.

A first-class company is not better appreciated in the State than in this city, but through the parsimonious and unpopular management of Mr. Whitney, Powers' Opera House was not a financial success last season.

HAMILTON, CANADA.

4th.—Mechanics' Hall. Barlow, Wilson, Primrose and West's Minstrels last Monday night to good house. No dates booked.

Larkin Hall. No dates.

Adelphi Theatre. Madame Sarony's Red Stocking Minstrels to fair houses.

The Hamilton Opera House is I hear to be completed in time for the opening of the season.

I understand that Stoneman is arranging another walking match to come off in his gardens.

It is rumored that the XIII Battalion Band are to give a concert at the beach some night next week.

SEDALIA, MO.

5th.—To write Dramatic notes from Missouri's future capital now, would require a too prolific draft on the imagination, even though the extreme heat did not dry it at its fount.

Hall attractions have wisely declined to tempt uncertain remuneration during the heated term, and thus left our keen appetites unimpaired to relish acceptable offerings when the season opens.

Cooper, Bailey & Co's Great London Circus and Menagerie exhibited on the 4th to good business. They have made a salutary innovation, for which a grateful public will thank them, i. e., they dispense with that abomination to a suffering audience, the candy butchers. The show is a good one. The acts are cleanly and cleverly done.

Tony Pastor has filled date for the 8th inst.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Friday night last, Messrs. Morris H. Warner and G. A. Merker, author and composer of the new comic opera "Cadets" were given a benefit at Macauley's Theatre. A large, fashionable and appreciative audience paid tribute to the genius of our two Louisville boys. A few selections from "Cadets" were given and were received with an encore by the audience.

This opera will be presented to the citizens of Gotham next fall by Grau's English Opera Company. Messrs. Warner and Merker leave this week for New York, to conduct the rehearsals of "Cadets."

Barney Macauley and wife are here spending the sum-

mer with old friends. Barney is busily engaged on his play, "The Messenger from Jarvis Section," which he expects to thoroughly revise for the fall campaign. Mr. Macauley is undecided as yet what he will do with his theatre for the coming season. The Opera House will not be regularly opened next season. No one as yet has had hardihood sufficient to undertake the management of this theatrical graveyard.

Captain Nellis Borden, better known as "Old Enterprise," has opened a beautiful little Variety Theatre called the Knickerbocker. Since the opening he has been playing to crowded houses. Last night standing room only. Captain Borden is a respectable, affable and intellectual gentleman. By true representations he has gained the confidence of the citizens of Louisville, and his name is the insignia of success. He offers a strong bill this week, and another success may be scored to the name of this gentleman.

Prof. Whallen, proprietor of the Metropolitan Theatre has had his house remodeled and painted, and intends on the 18th of August to open his house on a legitimate scale. *Entre nous* and with all proper respect to the scheme of Prof. Whallen, I will assume the role of a prognosticator, and prognosticate a terminus to his house a short time after opening.

Mr. Will Rozelle, styled in this section handsome Billy, assistant manager of the Opera House, Nashville, Tenn., was in our city all last week, looking, as ever, handsomer than a picture.

Handsome Jack Norton, of St. Louis has a strong rival in Billy, and as a friend to Jack will advise him to look to his laurels. Mrs. Rozelle, nee Addie Stiemas, who is the pride of the village, still retains her beautiful features, and a strong predilection for Bangs' playing.

BALTIMORE.

7th.—Holiday st. Extensive preparations are being made in this cosy theatre for the coming season, which opens on the 25th inst. The whole place is being altered and modernized, and when finished will present a truly handsome appearance. The chairs will be upholstered in bright orange; the old proscenium boxes will be replaced by new ones projecting on the stage; the new drop will be painted by Mr. Brooker of your city. It will be done through the courtesy of manager Ferguson at the Academy of Music, where the facilities for conducting the work are second to none in the country, it is said.

No pains will be spared to make the Holliday one of the brightest, cosiest and best houses South of New York.

Manager Albaugh will have no company next season, and will run combinations only at his theatres here and in Washington.

Among the companies who will perform here are the following: Collier's Union Square Co., Rice's Surprise Party, The Tourists, Grau's English Opera Co., with Laurent and Mlle. Corelli, Lotta, Adah Richmond Opera Co., Robson and Crane, W. J. Florence and wife, Robert Frazier's Pantomime Troupe, Maggie Mitchell, Kate Claxton, McKee Rankin and Kitty Blanchard, Joe Murphy, John McCullough, Oliver Doud Byron, E. A. Sothern, Mary Anderson, Fanny Davenport, Ada Cavendish, Joe Emmett and a host of similar attractions. May Mr. Albaugh have the success his energy deserves.

Ford's season begins August 18th with Little Duke.

NEWARK, N. J.

Haldeman's Theatre. The Jennie Yeamans Combination closed at the above house August 2d to New York. This week we have the Mollie Williams Combination comprising the following artists: Miss Mollie Williams, Fanny Prestige, Hattie Wilson, Fanny Bradden, Frankie Stick, Evelyn Constantine, James Roome, Lew Benedict, Little Mack, George Middleton, and Kennedy and Clark. The first part opened with a female minstrel scene, in which all the company, with the exception of the end men appeared in "Pinafore" costume, giving selections from that Opera. In the olio James Roome, Fannie Prestige, Hattie Wilson, Lew Benedict, Little Mack and Kennedy and Clark appeared in their different specialties, the performance closing with the burlesque entitled "The Invisible Prince," in which all the company appeared.

The company is far above the average, and had been extensively advertised, and the result has been good houses up to the time of writing.

A new and original drama entitled "Tracked until Trapped," from the pen of Mr. Oscar R. Beers has been purchased by Messrs. Frank Traynor and Ned Wambold, who intend to star with it during the coming season.

Mr. Joseph Norcross, professionally known as Joe Norni, has erected a beautiful and expensive monument over his late wife's remains at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, in this city.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

5.—Nothing doing in the regular line. Mr. John T. Ford, who has for many years enjoyed a complete monopoly of the legitimate amusement business of this city, has at length a rival worthy of his steel in the person of Mr. J. W. Albaugh, who has succeeded in leasing the National—the finest and largest building in the city devoted to dramatic purposes—and he will renovate and rehabilitate it completely. Mr. Ford has taken a stand at the Opera House which has been virtually abandoned to the amateurs for several years, and he has a force at work tearing out its interior arrangements, and proposes to completely change its appearance. The stage, now only about thirty feet deep, will be extended twenty feet. New and well furnished dressing rooms are to be put in (this will be pleasing news to the ladies of the profession who have appeared at this place under the old regime,) and the house is to undergo a thorough rejuvenation. Both managers are putting forth their best efforts, and it is expected that the season will be a brilliant one, and will open early. Competition is the life of trade, and I am sure our theatre-going public will welcome the new state of affairs.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Wm. H. Thorne, formerly of Gilmore's Garden, came to our city, and leased the capacious and elegant skating rink for the purposes of a summer garden. The old fogies prophesied a failure for the venture, but, as usual, they were mistaken. They little knew with what energy and ability the manager would push his business. He opened with instrumental music by the Marine Band, and from time to time has engaged the services of excellent lady vocalists. Miss Eva Mills was the first. Miss Blanch Correlli sang each evening last week, being assisted on Friday evening by Mr. Henri Laurent. Miss Elise Conly is engaged for the current week, and the same success is will undoubtedly attend the garden that has been attained in the past.

Mr. Thorne is a gentleman who knows exactly how to cater to the public taste, and has made his place by far the most attractive public resort ever established in this city. He merits the success which has crowned his efforts.

ELMIRA, N. Y.

8th.—The following attractions are booked for the Opera House: Oofy Goofy Co. Sept. 12th, in "Under the Gaslight; Emma Abbott Opera Company October 14th; Criterion Comedy Co. Oct. 21st; Rice's Surprise Party, Oct. 28th; Salisbury Troubadours, Nov. 4th; Berger Family and Sol Smith Russell, Nov. 11th; and Robson and Crane, Dec. 9th. Barlow, Wilson, Primrose and West's minstrels gave a very pleasing entertainment on the 4th at the Opera House.

SANDUSKY, OHIO.

7th.—Ira Payne gave exhibitions in rifle and pistol shooting at Fisher Hall, on the 6th inst. Good show to a poor house.

NORWALK, OHIO.

A party styling themselves the Idlers (six people of the last season's Olympic Stock Company of St. Louis, Mo.) are rustivating here, and giving two performances each week, greatly to the delight of the people of Norwalk. They are doing a good business.

A. T. Harley, manager of Sprague's Georgia Minstrels, is in town visiting his parents.

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

Mr. Frank Comstock, of the Opera House, is in New York negotiating for attractions for the coming winter. He writes that he has secured some "big cards."

Col. Theo. Morris, manager of the new "Grand" and the Ohio Circuit, has just returned from the metropolis. We button-holed him long enough to be informed that he will offer a *repertoire* that any Opera House might envy. Behold a portion of the feast with which he proposes to regale the lovers of the drama during the fall and winter months. Maggie Mitchell and her own company will open the "Grand" Aug. 25th, to be followed in due season by Adelaide Neilson, Jos. Jefferson, Mr. and Mrs. Florence, Jos. Emmett, Gotthold Octoroon Combination, The Danites, Lotta, Mary Anderson, John McCullough, Robson and Crane, Herrman, Jos. Murphy, Paulding Combination, Haverly's Mastodons, Collier's Union Square Company, Rice's Evangeline Company, Strakosch' Grand Opera Company, Maretzek's English Opera, Mrs. Oates' Comic Opera, Emma Abbott's Grand Opera Company, Philadelphia Church Choir Company, Miss Ada Cavendish, M'Liss Combination, with Miss Pixly, Daly's Under the Gaslight Company, and others that will be added during the season.

Manager Comstock, of the Opera House, promises a *repertoire* no less enticing.

With two first class Opera Houses, each using its best endeavors to offer none but the most attractive attractions, our theatre-goers may indeed consider themselves in luck.

The Grand Opera House is being rapidly brought to completion, and Col. Morris thinks he will have everything in readiness long before the 25th, the date of opening.

Manager Comstock will open the Opera House also on the 25th of August, which is State Fair week in Columbus with Nick Robert's Humpty Dumpty Combination. No dates ahead of that are as yet given.

THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY can always be found on the counter of A. H. Smythe, Book and News Dealer, corner of Broad and High streets.

The "Opera House," Theo. Comstock, manager, on High, between Town and Rich streets, and "The Grand Opera House," Col. Theo. Morris manager, is located on East State Street, is the old Athenaeum remodeled. These are the only regular places of amusement in the city. There are several private halls, but you do not probably care for those.

GENERAL NOTES.

DETROIT, Mich, Aug. 3, Nothing doing at Whitney's or Grand Opera House. The Coliseum closed until Aug. 18th, when Christol and Bauer will wrestle. Regular season begins Aug. 25th. Madame Anderson is still walking to poor houses at the Theatre Comique. The National and Astronomical clock is on exhibition to good houses at Merrill's Hall. Barnum's Circus at Flint, Aug. 1st; Saginaw, Aug. 2; Bay City, Aug. 4; Lansing, Aug. 5, and Grand Rapids, Aug. 6.

CLEVELAND, O. Grand Opera House and Academy closed. Arabella Root in Concert at Rocky River Aug. 7 and 8. Theatre Comique is doing good business. Arrivals were Jennie Farron, Hanley and Cocper, Ella Forrest, Mullalley and Fenton in their different specialties and Arthur Sprague in his Border Drama, Hawkeye, the Scout.

WILMINGTON, DEL.

8th.—August has ushered in, as is its custom, close and oppressive weather. Dogs are taken to the City Hall in large numbers, and suspected ones shot. On Wednesday evening last the W. T. R. N. gave a moonlight excursion, which was very much enjoyed. Last Tuesday a number of young gentlemen reached home, having been absent eleven days on a yachting trip. They visited Cape May, Atlantic City, Long Branch and Coney Island. While at Cape May they caught a large shark, measuring eight feet in length, and weighing 400 pounds. They were successful in their fishing, catching black and blue fish. Yesterday the Shields Library Association left for Cape May on the Thomas Clyde. Excursions are about to depart for Ocean City, Atlantic City and Cape May. Nothing doing in theatricals.

CONCORD, N. H.

White's Opera House, under the management of Horatio Hobbs, opened in September 1876, is a well-built, handsome theatre, with a seating capacity of eleven hundred, is furnished with Nolan's folding chairs, in the balcony, and Morse's patent settees on the floor. It is centrally located, and has every convenience for the comfort of the audience and the companies using it. The stage is thirty-four feet wide and twenty-five feet deep, with a proscenium opening twenty-seven feet by eighteen feet, well stocked with scenery and set pieces, and the interior decorations are handsome and in good taste. Dayton, of New York, now of San Francisco, painted almost all the scenery, and it has received the highest praise of those that have played here since the opening. The advertised rent is forty dollars per night, which includes stage hands, ushers, gas, &c. The sale of reserved seat tickets is in the hands of Frank Mace, at Eagle Book store, where plans of seats are kept. Eagle Hotel is a first class house, is run in connection with the Opera House; rates to professional people two dollars per day, which is also the rate at the Phoenix, an equally good house.

Eagle Hall is directly opposite the Opera House Block, on Main street, has a good reputation for concerts, lectures, &c., has a seating capacity of about nine hundred, has no scenery, and the rent varies according to style of entertainment given, from ten to twenty dollars per night.

Phoenix Hall, also on Main street, is a popular place of amusement. Here the State Musical Festivals are held. It contains no scenery, and will seat about one thousand, and rents for from ten to twenty dollars per night. The Elm House makes a special rate to professionals of one dollar per day, and the proprietors exert themselves to please the members of companies stopping with them.

Charles Batchelder, the news agent, who always keeps THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY on sale, attends to the bill-posting. He is assisted in this department of his business by Professor Mitchell, the pedestrian, better known to the profession as "Montey Mitchell," and anything entrusted to them will be carefully and conscientiously carried out.

Burbank, the elocutionist, once remarked to me in speaking of the way they had distributed his printing, "An honest bill-poster is the noblest work of God."

DANBURY, CONN.

11th.—Haverly's Juvenile Pinafore.

12th and 13th.—J. C. Meyers' New York Comedy Co. in the comedy of "Strategist."

TORONTO, ONT.

The concert by the Toronto Amateur Operatic Society at the Horticultural Gardens—referred to in my last—resulted very successfully. The entertainment consisted of selections of operatic and other music, which were capitally rendered by the company. Where all were so good, it would be unfair to single out anyone for special mention.

Miss Reidy, a young Canadian songstress of considerable ability, appeared in concert at "The Gardens" on the 5th and 6th. Miss Reidy is a native of Simcoe, and has been under New York masters for the past two years. She was very warmly received and made a marked impression. She is the fortunate possessor of an excellent voice, and has a future full of promise.

Mr. Ferdinand Carrie, an accomplished violinist, and Mr. Hurst, a popular Toronto vocalist, gave complete satisfaction in their respective lines.

By the way, if you admire genuine high-toned criticism, subscribe for the Toronto *Mail* and *Telegram*. Hear this from the former: "It (Miss Reidy's singing) is open to the objection of the excessive use of the vibrato!" "He (Mr. Carrie) has a brilliant staccato, with great dexterity in left-hand pizzicato!" The *Telegram* contents itself by modestly remarking that Miss Reidy ought to be mentioned in the same breath with Albani! Also, that "her voice has Miss Thursby's purity combined with the brilliancy of Di Murska! Enough said."

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

7th.—Nothing to report this week.

OSWEGO, N. Y.

8th.—The heavens at last are lighting up. Those stars of the minstrel firmament, Barlow, Wilson, Primrose & West, will scintillate next Monday night upon the Academy boards. From the excellence of the combination, and the present novelty of a dramatic performance, I am led to prognosticate a large audience. Their visit was rather unpremeditated, being determined upon within the last week. A general dearth of all that pertains to the theatre will follow their appearance, for the excitement of the drama in Oswego cannot say, with Tennyson's "Brook."

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever."

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

8th.—Dramatic news is at its lowest ebb. Springfield has finally started a boat club, or rather a "Navy," as they style it, and have their first meeting to-night.

Base ball fever seems to still rage, although somewhat abated. Many changes have been made in the nine since its organization, but they do not seem to improve it much. Perhaps, if they allow the Captain or the President of the Association or the stockholders to run it, rather than to have them all try to do it at one time, they would be better off. Their promise of the championship of the '79 season was undoubtedly spoiled by mismanagement rather than by poor players and playing; yet there is a ghost of a chance for them yet. Let us wait and see what we shall see.

NORWICH, CONN.

8th.—A Providence amateur company is expected to play "H. M. S. Pinafore" on the Thames river in proximity to the wharves of this city next week.

No theatrical or circus companies have visited this city for the past four weeks. Indications point, however, to a brilliant season the coming fall and winter.

KINGSTON, N. Y.

7th.—All places of amusement closed.

Pat Rooney is booked for Music Hall September 4th; Madame Rentz's Female Minstrels September 18th.

A colored minstrel troupe, calling themselves the San Francisco Minstrels, died an unnatural death here this week. I am of the opinion that the sheriff knew something about it.

PERSONAL.—Mrs. Henry, the *Josephine* of Gorman's Church Choir "Pinafore" Company, is stopping at the residence of A. E. Stratton, near this city.

HANNIBAL, MO.

6th.—Van Amburgh's Circus will appear in this city Monday, August 11.

May Fisk's Blondes will be here the last of the month, and no doubt will have full houses when they do come.

Our halls have all been put in complete repair during the past month, and are now looking very inviting.

A plan is on foot looking toward the erection of an Opera House this fall. Some of our capitalists have agreed that if the citizens will take 1,000 tickets, each good for one person and one performance, they will build the house. The cost will not exceed \$35,000. Over \$2,000 has already been taken, and now it begins to look as though we were to secure a long-needed adjunct.

LONDON, ONT.

6th.—At Holman Opera House, July 31, the Fifth Avenue Opera Company, under J. W. Norcross, Jr., gave "Pinafore" and "Trial by Jury" to fair business, two nights.

Coming August 9th, Kennedy & Barton's Savannah Minstrels.

Mechanics' Hall, August 1st, Stella Combination, under T. M. Brown, in variety bills, to good business. They appear again on the 8th in "Fanchon, the Cricket," and on each succeeding Friday evening until the opening of the fall season.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Jay Rial, manager and lessee of the Opera House, has returned from New York. So has E. F. Benton and Arthur Leutchford, lessees of Corinthian Academy of Music. Both houses are to have some very fine attractions during the coming season.

Opera House opens September 8th with Mary Anderson for one week.

Corinthian Academy of Music opens on the same date with the Park Theatre Comedy Company.

SELMA, ALA.

5th.—No news of any importance have lately transpired here in theatrical circles which merited notice; but now the scene has somewhat changed.

One Opera House has passed into new hands, active ones, and such as will endeavor to reform and reorganize the whole system. It will undergo changes in its architecture, which will not alone embellish it, but, combining the useful with the ornamental, will render it as near as possible perfect in the way of escape in case of fire.

As far as I can learn, a great many contracts have already been entered into between the managers and the leading stars (among them Joe Jefferson and John McCullough), and it is beyond a doubt that this season the citizens of Selma will witness more of theatrical life than for several years past taken together.

We have a very large hall (known as Gillman's Hall), with capacity of seating about 800 people, but it has only a small stage, suitable for concerts and amateur performances.

EVANSVILLE, IND.

Opera House: Manager Ferd. D. Goslee has booked some of the best companies that will be on the road this season.

Apollo Theatre: Laura Bennett, Capitola Forest, Ida Cory and Adele Leonard closed August 3. Hugh Fay's Burlesque "Pinafore" will be reproduced this evening (August 4), with the following excellent people in the cast: Hugh Fay, Ed. Chrissie, J. C. Murphy, Tom Murray, Tom Hedges, Misses Maggie Barnes, Daisy Remington, D'Alve Sisters, Henrietta Murray, and splendid chorus and orchestra under Prof. Schreiber.

John Sixth, manager of the "Dizzy Six" Minstrels, walked into town Saturday. The balance of his gang will arrive during the month—if they have luck.

J. G. Stutz has "busted" again, the third time since June. It's passing strange that "bloke" won't go to opening oysters or do some farm work, in order to give landlords a rest.

The annual regatta comes off this month on the Ohio course. The "Katorious Boat Club" will give \$1,500 in prizes.

The RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY is on sale at George C. Smith's news depot, and is much liked.

OTTAWA, ILL.

6th.—Haverly's Chicago Church Choir "Pinafore," will be here August 19th—first edition of the "agony" in this city.

Opera House closed this week.

In this county the theatres are: Ottawa, Opera House, seats 800, has large stage, and is generally well appointed; La Salle, Opera Hall; Peru, Turner Hall; Streator, Oriental Hall; Mendota, Washington Hall. The halls outside of Ottawa are common square halls with comparatively small stages, but are fairly well supplied with scenery. All are fair show towns.

SALEM, MASS.

Of course there are no travelling shows, except circusses, in this city during the hot weather, but the Naumkeag Railway Company has furnished us with a daily entertainment at the Willows, a summer resort just being pushed into notice. Sig. Pedanto, tight rope walker, is there this week. If the Naumkeag company desires to give the Willows a lasting popularity, it will have to stop advertising what they do not have.

The summer season was formally opened July 31. There was a large crowd, and not a very good natured one, for smoking was prohibited on the piazzas of the Pavilion and children were not allowed to play on the grass.

Saturday, August 2, was announced as children's day, and a balloon ascension was promised. Fully five thousand people were present and saw two paper balloons go up not twenty feet, when they burned.

Forepaugh's Circus is billed here for the 14th of the present month.

LYNCHBURG, VA.

4th.—There are in this city two places for public exhibitions. One of these, Holcombe Hall, with a seating capacity of about 500, is owned by the Sons of Temperance, and, by a recent resolution of that order, will only be used for lectures, public meetings and concerts.

The Lynchburg Opera House, a new building, and one of the handsomest in the South, has a seating capacity of nearly 900. It is supplied with all the modern improvements and well equipped in every respect. It is, of course, open to every class of respectable entertainments.

There is nothing of interest going on here. The Paige Amateur "Pinafore" Troupe are considering, and will probably accept, an invitation to render "Pinafore" at the Alleghany Springs. If they go, your correspondent will be present. The same troupe are now considering the selection and preparation of another opera, their recent performances having given so much satisfaction.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.

5th.—The ordinary monotony of the heated season was interrupted last week by the races.

There was also a good performance at the Academy by Mattie Vickers, supported by Charles Rogers and a company, but was not as well patronized as the high merit of the performers and piece deserved.

Everything is now back again in the old notch, with no place of amusement open but the "Comique," which is perennial.

Mr. Hanna, of the Opera House, has returned from New York, where he arranged to fill all dates at the Opera House until January 1, 1880, with first-class companies.

There will probably be no stock company here next season.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

5th.—Extensive alterations and improvements are now in progress in the interior of the Masonic Theatre, which will open early in September under the management of the popular W. J. Johnson. Among the noticeable features will be the widening of the entrance some four feet, and also the construction of a bridge ten feet wide, from the dress circle to the Maxwell House, adjoining—thus affording an extra exit in case of fire and panic. The parquette has been made smaller, the dress circle lowered and the seats altered in such a manner that each and every one commands a fine view of the stage. This house will play combinations only, having no stock company.

The Grand Opera House, with John W. Edwards at the helm, is also in the hands of the painters and gilders, and will have many improvements noticeable over last season. This house will have a fine stock company, though many combinations will perform there—the stock, in the meantime, playing in the rural districts. We are likely to have an exciting season, with such competition as these two houses will afford. Emerson's Megatherians will probably open the season at one of the two houses.

SCRANTON, PA.

5th.—W. C. Coup's New United Monster Circus and Menagerie appeared here on the 4th inst. to great crowds. This is the finest show of the kind we have had for a long time, every department being complete. We hope they will visit us again.

Prof. C. B. Derman is preparing to present "H. M. S. Pinafore" with his juvenile class. It will be given with all the effects, as presented in the larger cities. The chorus will consist of one hundred voices, and the characters will

be sustained by members of the juvenile class. We anticipate a fine treat. It will be given early in September.

A party of young men, including some of our best talent, are organizing a minstrel company to be known as "Barnes' New United Minstrels." We had the pleasure of attending one of their rehearsals the other evening, and were surprised at the proficiency they have attained. They will make their first appearance at Hyde Park on the 9th inst. They propose visiting all the leading cities in this part of the State, and will no doubt extend their tour.

The Battalion Band have received their new set of instruments, which arrived from Boston last week. They are from the Boston Musical Instrument Manufactory, and are of German silver of the latest pattern. On Saturday evening the band gave a concert, at which time they played upon the new instruments for the first time. We feel a just pride in this band, which, under the direction of Prof. H. E. Cogswell has become one of the finest in the State.

The next season in this city promises to be the most successful we have ever had. Manager Lindsay has already secured some of the best attractions. Last season proved this to be one of the best show towns in the State. Everything worthy of patronage was well supported, and we feel certain the excellent management will be continued. We have one of the finest theatres in the country—so pronounced by all leading artists; seating capacity 1,500.

ROME, N. Y.

7th.—At the Opera House on the 30th ult. a fair audience gave a hearty greeting to the Young Apollo Club of New York.

The programme on the whole was a weak one, the selections were not by any means as of a high order as heretofore rendered by this famous organization.

The club were not up to their usual standard of excellence in rendering their chorus pieces. In "Inflammatus," by Rosini, the voices did not blend with that true harmonious unison which so electrified a brilliant and large audience here on a former occasion. From the imperfect rendition of the programme it was quite apparent to the audience that the club were laboring under the disadvantage of not receiving a thorough drilling.

The Apollos have a host of friends here who regret that this entertainment was somewhat off, but entertain the hope that the serious defect will be remedied ere they call here again.

There are two shows on the road that are drawing large houses at nearly all the cities they visit. For some reason Rome is passed by and left out in the cold by their advance agents, as a consequence a large number of Romans who desire to be entertained by Tony Pastor's combination and Haverly's Mastodon Minstrels are compelled to go to Utica. The opera house here is a large and commodious one, and would certainly be packed should either or both of these enterprises stop here.

Rollins, of New York, who is on his way to Chicago with his bicycle, arrived in town yesterday. His advent aroused the curiosity of the populace and caused no little excitement among the sporting fraternity.

Burlew, Wilson, Primrose and West's Minstrels are billed for August 14th at the Opera House.

NEW ORLEANS.

Nothing of interest is occurring in amusement circles. The Vaudry Rifles will give a complimentary entertainment at Carrollton Gardens on the 6th inst.

Free concerts at the Lake-ends continue to attract large crowds.

KINGSTON, N. Y.

All our Halls, of which we have a large number, are for the present closed. Miller's Hall will open in August with a regular variety company. Pat Rooney is booked for September 4th and 5th at Music Hall. Business dull, but outlook good.

THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY is for sale at E. Winter's, Music Hall Block, and is popular by reason of its excellent dramatic news as well as its editorials and stories.

(Continued on 11th page.)

THE RAMBLER

AND

DRAMATIC WEEKLY.

DEVOTED TO

THE SOCIAL WORLD AND THE INTERESTS
OF THE STAGE.

THE HOME BOOK AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

CHAMPION BISSELL, EDITOR.

Office.....37 Dey Street, N. Y.
Branch Office, F. P. BULLOCK, Manager...854 Broadway.Subscription per year \$3.00; six months \$1.50; post-paid, or \$4.00
per year, including a splendid Octavo SHAKESPEARE, with Steel
Plates, post paid.Correspondence on musical and dramatic matters is solicited from
all parts of the country.All communications should be written on one side of the paper
only, and have the writers' real name appended, not for publication
but as a guarantee of good faith.All advertisements must reach this office not later than 6 P. M., on
Monday.

American News Co., sole agents.

Circulation, 7,300.

VOL. 2. NEW YORK, AUGUST 16, 1879. NO. 1.

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OUR LETTER LIST.

All letters advertised in this list can be found at the office, 854
Broadway, and will be forwarded on receipt of stamp.

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| Adrian, Miss Rose | Gascon, H. T. |
| Brown & Barnes | Lang, Joe |
| Charles, C. W. | Monk, Miss Minnie |
| Cushing, Miss May | Middleton, Geo. W. |
| Campbell, Geo. F. | Meador, J. G. |
| Cushing, Miss Mary | Stedwell, R. A. |
| Chrisdie, Chas. F. | Vaughn, Harry |
| Farrell, Miss Minnie | Wren, Oliver |
| Gwinnett, Harry | Wiechmann, Mrs. Anna |

The fact of Harry Palmer's funeral having occurred on Wednesday, the day on which the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY appears, prevented any notice being given of it in our last issue. The services were held in the Church of the Annunciation, beginning at half-past ten, at which time a large number of our most notable managers and stars were assembled to pay the last token of respect to their friend and old employer. Assisted by Mr. W. Raymond, the regular church choir sang one of the beautiful chants of the Episcopal service as the casket was borne up the centre aisle.

The pall-bearers were: John McCullough, George F. Rowe, Douglas Taylor, J. H. Draper, H. W. Allen, A. W. Sanford, C. J. Walilees and Benj. Gurney.

The Rev. Dr. Seabury officiated, while the usually bright faces of such men as John T. Raymond, Chandos Fulton, W. J. Florence and J. H. Tooker bore traces of the genuine sorrow felt in their hearts. By special request no floral offerings were sent to the church, a simple pillow bearing the deceased's initials, together with the word "Finis," resting upon the coffin.

At the conclusion of the services the body was conveyed to Greenwood Cemetery, accompanied by the bereaved family and a large number of professional friends.

William Melmoth Ward, one of our old actors of the "palmy days," died suddenly at his residence in Jersey City Sunday morning, the 3d inst., of dropsy of the heart. Born in England, October 6, 1822, Mr. Ward made his debut in this country February, 1840, at the National Theatre, Washington, as *Rolla* in "Pizarro." His first appearance in New York was at the Chatham Theatre, as *Ataliba* in "Pizarro." He will also be remembered by many of our oldest citizens as leading man of the "Old Drury." At the time of his death he was engaged to go on a tour through the country with Joseph Murphy in "Kerry Gow."

Charles Fechter.—The funeral of this distinguished actor took place in Philadelphia last Friday morning. It was first intended that the services should be held in St. Clement's Church, but owing to a large number of the choir being absent—thus preventing the singing of the mass—the arrangements were altered, and the burial services were conducted at the house, 2130 Cherry street, where the body had been carried upon its arrival in the city.

The Rev. Dr. James Paddock, of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, read the beautiful service of the church, dispensing with any oration, after which the casket was closed, and, followed by a number of carriages, the mortal remains of Chas. Fechter were conveyed to the family plot in Mt. Vernon Cemetery. A large number of professionals were present, among whom were: E. S. Connor, J. B. Roberts, both veterans of the stage; F. C. Bangs, F. F. Mackey and Harry Linden. The post-mortem examination made by Professor Pancoast showed that his death was caused by cirrhosis of the liver. His brain, it is said, weighed forty-two ounces.

BANDMANN'S AGENTS.

In last Thursday's issue of an esteemed cotemporary appeared a long-winded article, in which the coming actor, D. E. Bandmann, was accredited with having in his employ three different agents, namely: R. T. Percy, L. S. Outram, and the firm of Simmonds & Brown, while his English company were designated as British Vagrants.

Rather astonished, not only at this uncalled for attack—which it undoubtedly was—but that Mr. Percy, a gentleman long associated with the press of this city, and a thorough man of the world, should have placed himself in any such equivocal position, a representative of the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY was assigned the task of learning the true state of affairs.

Ascending to the front office of the Standard Theatre, Mr. Percy—in company with his inevitable cigarette—was discovered at the managerial desk surrounded by a mass of correspondence, the majority being applications from professionals for positions during the coming season, and advertisement circulars from various catch-penny sheets. "What most interested the interviewer, however, was that a copy of the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY *did not* occupy the place of prominence on the table." This, however, was explained during the conversation by the assurance from Mr. Percy that it was the only dramatic paper which he could conscientiously permit his

family to read, and he invariably carried it home on the day of its publication.

"I suppose by this time you have seen the article headed 'Bandmann's Emigrant Runners,' which appeared in one of the papers a few days ago?" was asked.

"Yes, I accidentally heard of it, and purchased a copy simply to see the extent of the idiotic statement."

"It has, then, no foundation. Is that the idea you intend to convey?"

Yes, and no. The whole matter has been misunderstood by certain parties; whether intentionally or not, I cannot say, except in one instance—the present article in question—which, of course, was written in the interests of the unemployed professionals of Union Square. In the case of Messrs. Simmonds & Brown, they are Mr. Bandmann's agents, but are employed and empowered to make dates out of town after the New York season has closed."

"Well, how about Mr. Outram's claim?"

"There is where the greatest mistake has been made. Mr. Outram is simply a member of the company who, desiring to see something of the country, came over beforehand for that purpose. Wishing to announce his arrival in the papers he, without thinking how the words might be construed, stated that he was a 'representative of the company,' which, of course, he is, being a member; but in no other sense. The better plan, however, to settle the matter is this,"—and opening a drawer, Mr. Percy produced a paper, which he handed to the interviewer.

Upon examination this proved to be a contract dated July 9, 1879, signed by D. E. Bandmann, and appointing R. Townsend Percy his agent and representative, authorized to attend to all advertising, and to have general supervision of his (Bandmann's) interests during his engagement at the Standard Theatre the coming fall and winter.

"That," continued Mr. Percy, "will certainly set at rest any mistaken ideas regarding my position. Another point I desire to correct is that Mr. Bandmann has not leased this theatre, but will play on shares with Mr. Henderson."

"When do you expect Mr. Bandmann?"

"That I cannot say yet. His departure from England will be cabled to the Associated Press, so that a number of his friends may be enabled to meet him down the bay when the steamer arrives. It is not his intention to bring over a company of 'stars,' but he has perfected a stock company who, accustomed to playing with him, will equal, if not excel, those of the Union Square or Wallack's in their brightest days. The costumes intended for the different plays to be produced have been purchased in Berlin, London and Paris, at a cost of from \$10,000 to \$12,000, and are simply superb."

"What plays will be produced?"

"On September 6th we will open with Tom Taylor's version of "Narcisse," to be followed by "Dead or Alive" by the same author, which, by the way, will be its first production in this country, although Mr. Bandmann has played it for nearly 100 nights in London with great success. "Nadine," by Ion Perdicaris; J. Merchant of Venice" and "Hamlet" will be produced in order, after which the "Lady of Lyons" and "School for Scandal" will be played in order to more fully exhibit the tal-

ent of Mrs. Bandmann. Before returning to this country Mr. Bandmann will be the guest of the Duke of Edinburgh at a dinner given especially to show the kindly feeling existing between the Prince and actor."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter, received at this office explains itself:

NEW YORK CITY, Aug. 11, 1879.

Mr. Editor:

Although not personally acquainted with Mr. Bandmann, the actor, who is to open the Standard Theatre, yet appreciating him as an artist, I wish to add my humble protest against the vile manner in which another dramatic paper has mentioned his name in connection with the Mrs. Rousby affair of last year. It is well known by all who read the papers at that time that before the highest court in England Mr. Bandmann was honorably discharged and cleared from all the charges made against him, and that Mrs. Rousby, by all accounts, was one of the worst black-mailers in the country. I don't mean to occupy your time or space with a long article, but I do think that common courtesy alone should keep any journal from bringing up a matter which has been decided so long ago in favor of the person they attack. An advertisement from his agent might stop it though, the same as it did in the case of Mrs. Alfa Merrill. Don't you think this is a case of one "Gas-man" too many?

Very truly,

A READER.

ART NOTES.



At the Gibbon Gallery, 1160 Broadway, there is an excellent example of Biersadt, entitled "Spring in California." Those who like Bierstadt's manner, will find it here in its best form. This picture will not remain long in its present location, as it is being negotiated for; hence an early visit is desirable.

A publication, under the Revised Statutes of New York, has been made, of the terms of the special partnership between Montague Marks and Michel Bouvier, for the purpose, as alleged, of publishing *The Art Amateur*.

Mr. Bouvier, who is one of the most genial gentlemen of the Stock Exchange, has been induced by Marks to invest three thousand dollars in this risky enterprise. After Marks' Albany experiences, and his connection with the bankrupt *Illustrated Weekly* of this city, it is remarkable that he should find any one ready to entrust him with three thousand dollars, or, for that matter, with three thousand cents. It is dollars to pennies that Bouvier loses his money, and probably another three thousand with it, good money flung after bad, to try and recover the bad. Jessup & Moore, the paper makers, who lost \$15,000 by the *Illustrated Weekly*, and an army of artists and printers who were never paid for the work done on it, might have enlightened our friend "Mich," if he had consulted them. Three months ago, "Mich" had the capital and Marks the experience; three months hence will not "Mich" have the experience and Marks the capital? But come what may, the latter must have his daily "Napoleon Cabinet," even if the confiding "Mich" pays for it; or the restaurateur is obliged to "hang it up."

The Correggio at Brighton Beach attracts much attention. See our notes on another page.

D. L. Morris, a Dutch comedian of notoriety, died at Cape Girardeau, Mo., on the evening of August 5.

THE LOUNGER.



Apropos of Coney Island, is it the height of human felicity to go about on a sand-bank, look at an immense crowd of soiled and ill-mannered strangers and be looked at in return, and finally pay three prices for a bad dinner?

The proprietor of a couple of North River steamboats receives the commendations of his devoutly disposed neighbors in his Nyack home for running only a six-day line. Then on Sundays he plies boats between New York and Murray & Nortons.

The theatrical season promises superbly. But are all the women going to become brilliant in their lines, graceful in their figures, beautiful in their faces, and perfect in their elocution; and are all the men going to be equally accomplished, and will Charley Thorne and Dan Harkins learn to *always* take their hats off when they enter a parlor where ladies are? These be parlous questions, my masters.

To drain Coney Island, the engineers must find a lower down place. They say this is difficult; but have they tried the offices of the Dramatic Slush-Bucket?

Since one of my co-laborers in the fertile field of the "Flats and Sharps" of the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY pointed a moral and adorned a tale with Vernona Jarbeau's lager beer and pretzel proclivities, the little woman hasn't been in evidence. This is a pity, and she ought to appear and partake of her diet as usual. She would be a good singer, if she only had a voice.

Hebrew-hating Corbin isn't the first of his kind. Pharaoh, Sennacharib, Nebuchednezzar and Titus, among others, each took a hack at the Hebrew of the period. But none of them were ever talented enough to borrow money of him without security.

Fechter should have died earlier. He pitifully outlived his reputation, and came near outliving his money. Between his widow and poverty it is too near a thing to be pleasant.

No, I haven't a word to say about the marriage of that undeniably charming woman and excellent actress, Fanny Davenport. I shall always say and maintain that public art has no connection with private morals.

Apropos: let me quote the wise and witty Prebendary Sydney Smith. Mr. Percival, although negligent of the best interests of England, had been highly praised by the journals of his party because he was temperate, chaste, and an indulgent father. "But," said Sydney Smith, "we would rather have had it to say of him that he was regularly drunk every night, ruined the domestic happiness of Budge and Tickell, whipped his children, and saved his country."

While an indubitable Correggio was being photographed on the piazza of the Brighton last Sunday, a rustic, from Squam or Babylon, came up with Jemima to gaze at the same. As he turned away he was heard to say to his admiring companion, "Now I guess that there chromo, with the frame, must be worth ten dollars anyhow."

I would rather see the whole universe drunk of its own accord, than one man sober upon compulsion.

The very worst clam chowder on Coney Island is at Paul Bauers. At the Manhattan Beach you have clam, potato, cockroach and hot water, and the lobster is left out; at the Brighton you have potato and hot water and the clams and cockroach are left out; but at Bauer's, West Brighton, everything is left out but the hot water.



JOHN BLACKBRIDGE.

Those desiring to invest in stocks, or transact financial business of any nature we would advise them to send for a copy of the *Operator* to Messrs. D. P. Herriek & Co., 43 New Street, N. Y., whose reputation for integrity and ability is unquestioned.—*Ex.*

OUR SUMMER RESORTS.

Saratoga is more than the Carlsbad of America. It is Carlsbad, and Bath, and Pau in the Pyrenees, and Ems, and Wiesbaden, rolled into one, with a touch of Monaco, and a suspicion of Homburg added. For here you not only have all varieties of healing and attractive springs, but also all the gay varieties of luxurious life, let loose for a summer holiday, and superadded to these those excitements of racing and gaming that the average thoroughbred man of the period prizes so deeply.

While Saratoga has made immense strides in luxury during a few years past, yet for a century it has been famous throughout the United States for its medicinal and agreeable waters. "Congress Hall," built near the famous Congress Spring, dates from the early part of the century. Its colonnade, or piazza, fronting on Broadway, although not nearly so spacious as the present beautiful promenade that dates from 1866, was yet made historical more than thirty years ago by the distinguished men who loved to plant their chairs upon its boards, and stroll up and down under its shaded ceilings planning the high politics and finance of their era. It was a favorite resort of DeWitt Clinton, of Wm. H. Seward, of Chancellor Walworth, of Wm. L. Marcv, of Silas Wright, of John VanBuren, and of his courtly and polished father, the Presidential successor of General Jackson. On the piazza of "Congress Hall" was concocted, one moonlight night, the celebrated Barn-burner campaign that changed the destinies of the Democratic party of the Empire State; and it was here that Wm. H. Seward first became famous by projecting his anti-Masonic, or Morgan, crusade. Chancellor Walworth also aided to immortalize this already classic ground, by uttering his celebrated *bon mot* about Daniel Webster and himself at "Congress Hall," as the two greatest brandy-and-water drinkers in the United States, only Webster accounted for the brandy, and he (the Chancellor) accounted for the water.

Saratoga, for the average traveller, and the average man of the world and society, is the most luxurious spot on the western hemisphere. Newport is elegant, but it turns a cold shoulder on you unless you belong to a set or clique, or unless you have a talent of nobility. The traveller finds no welcome, as a matter of course, among the pretentious hotels and still more pretentious, and generally *parvenue*, cottages of Newport. At Long Branch he finds only a succession of caravansaries, overflowing from Friday to Monday; and a howling waste during the rest of the week—a shifting city on the sand, without a back country, and with nothing to diversify the monotony of the eternal sea. Lake George is only a fishing settlement; at the Springs of Virginia you are badly lodged and worse fed. And so as we go the rounds through the summer resorts of the country, we find ourselves returned to Saratoga as the *ultima Thule* of luxury, and dreamful ease, and varied enjoyment; as the only summer refuge where the science of living is correctly studied; as the place where it is indeed "always afternoon," and where all things work together to make you forget the ills and cares of life.

Prominent, and *facile princeps*, among the three great hotels of Saratoga, we give our suffrages to "Congress Hall." We are not now estimating by feet and inches, nor do we gauge the excellence of a hotel by its cubic contents, yet in point of size this noble building need not fear comparison. It is 416 feet long, and six stories high, loftily and airily built, capable of housing in spacious apartments one thousand guests. Of the size of the rooms we cannot speak too highly. Every room opens widely out on the pure sweet air of out-doors. Its front piazza, upon Broadway, is 250 feet long, and the two wings measure 300 feet. These wings overlook the famous Congress Spring and the beautiful Congress Park, as also the Hathorn and Hamilton springs. The situation is simply the best in the town.

"Congress Hall" was bought in 1878 by Mr. W. H. Clement, and is now under the management of Mr. H. S. Clement, who as the able manager of the "Lindell House," St. Louis, achieved a national reputation as the man who, to quote Asa Trenchard, "could keep a hotel." To eulogize Mr. Clement's qualities as a host would be superfluous, but if we can portray the pleasant life one can lead at his house, the reader can correctly draw his inferences as to the good qualities of the individual to whom he is indebted for so much comfort.

Home-like ease and independence then are the main features of your life in this pleasant hostelry. The servants, trained to consult your wishes, seem like your own from the moment when you enter the house. The spacious piazza seems to you like an enlarged verandah of your own country seat, except that it is much superior in point of architecture, and that you have no trouble in keeping it in order. Its occupants all seem friendly. You find that you are acquainted with some of them; others you don't know, but they are such pleasant-looking people, you think you would like to know them; and gradually you find your acquaintance extending, such are the kindly ways of the habitués of this house. This has been its immemorial reputation, known to us since in our callow days, while yet we were in the Latin grammar and "Cornelius Nepos," we played checkers on this famous piazza with now District-Attorney Phelps, and that now ardent Republican, Ellis H. Roberts, of Oneida.

Music, of course, every day, and of the best. This house has always adhered to Bernstein, himself a composer of ability. Mr. Bernstein's celebrated band officiated at a grand ball at the "Congress," on Friday, the 8th.

Society here was shaken to its centre, in 1877, by Judge Hilton's edict as to the withdrawal of the hospitality of the "Grand Union" from the large and important Hebrew element in our summer-travelling population. Judge Hilton's example has not been followed by the managers of "Congress Hall." The countrymen of Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer and Beaconsfield, and our own Dr. Adini, are welcome under Mr. Clement's roof. We have noticed here the accomplished Mrs. Seligman, wife of the great banker, and mother of as noble a family of children as can be found between Maine and Texas, one of whom has attained this year high academic honors. Mr. Blumenfeld, the eminent bankruptcy lawyer, whose professional income rivals that of Evans and O'Connor, is also here; as well as that ardent and skilled musical *fancista*, and connoisseur in diamonds, Mr. Schultz, who is also, by the way, a fast friend to THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY.

We had intended to write about the races, but a good dinner, a bottle of Bouche's Maximun, and a seat by the window overlooking the luxurious courtyard of the "Congress," have caused our pen to wander off into a sketch of our surroundings. In a few days we shall return to our work. The fall and winter season of 1879-80 waits for us. There are shows to see, plays to criticise, operas to listen to, articles to write, but to these we shall carry back refreshing memories of the *dolce far niente* enjoyed by us at "Congress Hall."

PRUDENT STOCK SPECULATIONS.—The Stock Exchange never presented such an admirable condition for profitable and rapid stock operations. There never before have been so many fortunes made by quick fluctuations and skilful manipulations. Careful and reasonable people only operate through the combination system of Messrs. Lawrence & Co., which enables those with large or small means to invest and realize handsome profits, which are divided *pro rata* among the shareholders every thirty days. New combinations are constantly forming. From \$20 to \$10,000 can be safely invested with splendid opportunities for quick profits. An Illinois grain dealer made \$13,220.41 in two investments. A Michigan farmer invested \$50, which yielded \$433.14. He made by three investments over \$3,000. A Wisconsin country merchant made \$4,249.15 in four combinations; and others have done equally as well. New explanatory circular, with "winning rules for success," mailed by Messrs. Lawrence & Co., Bankers, 57 Exchange Place, New York City.

STAGE NOTES.

James G. Taylor, formerly of the Oates party, will open the first of September at the Adelphi, London, in a new play by Wills.

During Mr. Bandman's voyage to London on the steamer Celtic, he gave, by request, several Snakspearian readings. The collections, amounting to \$145, were sent to the Sailor's Home.

It is rumored that promenade concerts will be given during the season at Drury Lane and Her Majesty's.

William Forrester, who it will be remembered was attached to the Rice Surprise Party, has been engaged to play for two weeks, beginning last Tuesday, at Oakland Garden, Boston. Mr. Forrester will take the part of the Admiral in "Pinafore," which is given upon a vessel anchored in the lake.

Fred Wood, the operatic primo tenor, of London notoriety, is anxious to secure an engagement in this country.

Imagine a man who swears he has never seen "Pinafore." Such a person appeared last week and is now in the city.

The English Opera Pinafore Company, of which Miss Amy Lee was a member, playing the part of *Josephine*, returned to this city on the 5th inst., from a tour in the interior. From the general rectitude of the members one would suppose that the business must have been very light.

It is alleged that manager Hofele, in his venture at the Olympic Theatre will be backed financially by the brother of Miss Ethel Allen, the lady herself to fill the part of leading juvenile.

It is claimed by a member of E. H. Gilmore's late Children's Pinafore Company that while at Milwaukee he was subjected to the most barbarous treatment. Having, as all boys love to do, gone upon a sail, he contracted a slight cold, whereupon the said Gilmore oaked him in a room, and administered four castor oil pills, which naturally made the youth deathly sick. Released from this, Mr. Hooley sent him home at his own expense.

Mr. C. E. McGeachy denies that he has accepted the position of business agent for Gilmore's Pinafore Company.

Wallack's opens for a preliminary season next Monday, with J. T. Raymond as the attraction in "Wolfert's Roost."

Gus Williams will travel as "star" the coming season, appearing in a new and interesting play entitled "Herman Wagner, Our German Senator." The play, from the pen of Frank Rogers, is said to abound in political satire, and will, without doubt, prove a decided attraction.

John Rickaby will be the pilot at the helm of the manageria ship.

Mr. W. A. Mestayer, for the past two years comedian with the Rice Surprise Party, and later of the California Theatres, will be one of "The Tourists" in the Pullman Palace Car. So will Gus Bruno, an excellent dialect character actor.

Mr. Ralph Delmore has been re-engaged to support Mr. John A. Stevens in his play of "Unknown." The gentleman will play his original character of *Dr. Brinkton*, in which he proved very successful during the two years he has been connected with this company.

Dave Wambold, the sweet singer of "Frisco," is reported to be out of the danger threatened by his recent illness.

Rehearsals are now being held of Geo. Fawcett Rowe's new play, which is to be produced at Wallack's next Monday. It is a dramatization of Washington Irving's story, "Wolfert's Roost," and has been specially written for John T. Raymond, who intends playing *Ichabod Crane* through the States instead of that ancient philosopher *Colonel Sellers*.

Miss Laura Alberta will probably produce her new play, "Fifine" at Haverly's Theatre, this city, during the coming season. Mr. John Sutherland is the manager. An excellent company has been engaged for the support, and we have no doubt this worthy young lady and excellent artiste, will meet with the success she so richly deserves.

Mr. W. H. Thompson, one of the best and most versatile of our young American actors, has been engaged to do the character business with Miss Cavendish next season.

Mr. W. J. Gilbert, the comedian, has been specially engaged to support Miss Ada Cavendish next season. This young gentleman, for many years a member of Albaugh's Company, Albany, will be remembered for his excellent rendition of *Dr. Sadeye* in "Whims," produced at the Fifth Avenue during the season just past.

Mr. Willie Seymour arrived from California during the past week, and has been very busy arranging the business of Lawrence Barpett. He will spend the remainder of the summer at Cohasset, Mass., and next season will be located at the Boston Museum.

W. H. Power has been in town for some time past, making arrangements for the tour of the Bowen-Thompson Combination.

John A. Mackay, one of the best of comedians and general actors, will not go with the Weathersby-Goodwin Combinations as reported.

Miss Mary Anderson is at present resting at her pretty little cottage at Long Branch. She will resume business on or about Sept. 16th, under the management of S. W. Hickey. The company engaged is the same as last year, with some few minor changes.

Haverly's Juvenile Pinafore Company started upon their New England tour last Monday. The company has been selected with much care and should meet with unqualified success.

VARIETY NOTES.

Miss Katie McDowell will probably go with the Oates party next season.

Effie LaTour, a young lady conspicuous for her beauty during the run of "Baba" at Niblo's Garden, returns to the stage the coming fall, after an absence of four years.

Tony Pastor is meeting with great success at the Bush Street Theatre in San Francisco, where he will remain until August 30th.

Viola Clifton and her blondes are astonishing the natives of New Brunswick.

This is the last week in which Haverly's Georgia's can be seen at the Lyceum.

The attractions at Harry Miner's new theatre this week are even greater than usual.

Hermann, the magician, drinks his beer of evenings at Koster and Bial's, on Twenty-third street.

The greatest activity prevails among the variety profession. Good engagements are being made upon all sides, and the season promises to be the best known for years past.

Mlle. Addie Herrmann returned from Paris on the 10th inst.

Miss Louise Montague is the *Josephine* no longer at Harry Miner's Theatre; her place being now filled by Fanny Beane—a wonderful contrast.

Miss Helen Greyson goes with Adah Richmond the coming season.

Mr. H. N. Perry, the gentlemanly treasurer of Her Majesty's Opera Company, returned from Newport Monday, looking as brown as a coconut, and ready for fall work.

Miss Adah Whitman goes with Alice Oates next season.

Indig, the celebrated American designer, is about making a pair of tights for one of our leading burlesque actresses, which will eclipse any production of his in years.

Mr. W. C. Mitchell, of the Theatre Comique, St. Louis, returned to that city last Saturday.

Mike Leavitt's Rentz Minstrel Party open their season in Jersey City Sept. 1st.

FLATS AND SHARPS.



Herr Wilhelmj, assisted by Julia Rive King, gave, or as Max Strakosch says, sold, two Concerts at United States Hotel Saratoga Springs, one Tuesday night, Aug. 5th; the other Thursday, Aug. 7th. They were a disappointment. The Hall was very hot, both evenings, and there is no rise to the floor; hence, people who sit in the middle and rear do not hear or see well. Nor did the performers appear to manifest the usual desire to please.

The take was quite fair.

Bernstein's band, at Congress Hall, Saratoga, furnishes quite often a delicious bit of old music; ultra classical.

Mr. Carl Rosa is in Dublin.

Mr. D'Oyley Carte is in London.

Mr. Jeromè Hopkins is in Maine.

Miss Litta is at Bloomington, Ill.

Mrs. Alice Oates is at Long Branch.

Mrs. Imogene Brown summers at Richfield Springs.

Miss Annis Montague is at her home in Baltimore.

Mr. B. Agramonte is rusticating at Noroton, Conn.

Mme. Mayhew Symonds has left Boston for Europe.

Manager Mapleson is expected to arrive in New York soon.

"Mignon" has been the greatest success of the London Opera season.

Long Branch is visited by New Jersey Mosquito "Pinafore" Companies.

Miss Jenny Busk sang at the Permanent Exhibition, Philadelphia, on the 3d.

Misi Florence Coplestone is meeting with great success in the English provinces.

Miss Adelaide Randall will not be a member of the Emma Abbott Opera Company.

Manager Max Strakosch says that when he heard Miss Blanche Davenport sing in opera he had to cry.

The Fifth Avenue Opera Company gave "Pinafore" to very large audiences at Hamilton, Canada.

Miss Emilie Melleville made quite a sum of money from her eight weeks' season of "Pinafore" in San Francisco.

An English Opera manager was recently compelled to pay damages to a lady whose dress had become soiled in consequence of the newly-painted chairs not having had time to dry.

The new opera "Twin Sisters," by H. S. Saroni, will soon be produced at New London, Conn., by local amateurs.

Mlle. Aimée gives it as her opinion that opera bouffe has nearly had its day, and that opera comique is to succeed it.

Mme. Gerster's brother, who lives in New York, says that his sister has not yet signed with Mapleson for next season.

Mr. F. von Olker, who was leader for the Weathersby Froliques last season, has been engaged to conduct the orchestra at the Boylston Museum.

Haverly's Church Choir Opera Company, under the direction of Mr. Louis Falk, have given "Pinafore" in Milwaukee to very large audiences.

The first performance of the new comic opera, "Cadets," will be given in Baltimore Sept. 7th. Mlle. Blanche Corelli and M. Henri Laurent will be in the cast.

Blind Tom is at Saratoga.

Mr. Aptommas has gone to Europe.

Miss Belle Howitt is at Nantasket Beach.

Mr. George Conly, the basso, is in London.

Mr. Thomas Whiffin has sailed for Europe.

Miss Antonia Henne ruralizes at Lake Mahopac.

Mr. J. B. Lang spends the heated term at Swampscott.

Miss Lina Merville is to join Rice's "Evangeline" company.

Mr. Homer Warren is to play *Captain Corcoran* on a tour of Michigan.

Maude Sheppard is still in rural Pennsylvania.

Miss Mathilde Phillips is engaged for a series of concerts in London.

Mr. Maretzek's date for opening at the New York Academy is September 21.

Mr. Charles H. Drew has engaged with the Oates Opera Company for forty weeks.

Miss Inez Sexton will not be a member of the Oates Opera Company next season.

Sig. Rosnati has closed his engagement at the Madison Square Garden, New York.

Miss Emma Goldberg, of Chicago, is studying for the opera at the Paris Conservatory.

Miss Blanche Corelli has made an engagement to sing at the Summer Garden, Washington.

Miss Eva Mills has gone to Buffalo to assume the role of *Josephine* in the Standard Opera Company.

Miss Emma Thursby writes that she gets very homesick sometimes, and longs to return to the United States.

Sig. A. Torriani, jr., the baritone, has joined the company of vocalists at the Madison Square Garden, New York.

Miss Alice Plastings, of Brooklyn, and Miss Eva Sinclair, have been engaged for Manager Mahu's "Fatinitza" Company.

A new fairy operetta, "Fount Arethusa," by Mr. J. T. Van Antwerp, has been produced with fair success at Hornellsville, N. Y.

It is now rumored that Mr. Carl Rosa wishes to engage Miss Clara Louise Kellogg for an English opera season in America.

Herr Bruno O. Klein, a young composer and pianist, formerly of Cincinnati, but for two years past a resident of St. Louis, is about to locate in New York.

The New York English Opera Company, Mr. J. F. Barrill, manager, is giving "Pinafore" and "Trial by Jury," in Connecticut.

A "colored" minstrel company has just been organized, the members of which are all negroes of the darkest shades, but who whiten their faces to represent the Caucasian race.

The new opera, "Buttercups and Daisies," which has been successfully produced at Providence, R. I., was written by Mr. E. S. Getchell, and set to music by Mr. S. P. Weston, both of Boston.

Miss Blanche Davenport (or as she is known in Italy, "Bianca Lablache") has been engaged by Manager Strakosch to sing in Paris, London and the United States, beginning early in September.

Adah Richmond begins her third annual tour at Albaugh's Theatre, Baltimore, Sept. 15. Her repertoire includes "Fatinitza," "Carmen," "Pinafore," "Dr. of Alcantara," and other operas.

The Alice Oates Opera Troupe open their season at the Arch St. Theatre, Philadelphia, Sept. 1, for a period of two weeks, under the management of Mr. Samuel T. Jack, with Charles Melville as business manager.

The grand concert at Koster & Bial's, Tuesday evening, August 12th, to celebrate the one hundredth night, was a monumental success.

Braun's Brigade Band, of Boston, have been performing during the season at Congress Park, Saratoga. Once or twice a week they give a Concert on the kiosk on the pretty lake in the centre of the park, opposite the club house. Their leader is an excellent cornetist.

Miss Laura Joyce is passing the summer with her parents at Block Island.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Continued from 7th page.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

7th.—Miss Blanche Weaver, of this city, a recent graduate of the Syracuse High School (an excellent educational institution) and a reader of some promise, has been offered, and has accepted, an engagement with the Fifth Avenue Dramatic Company of your city for the coming season. She is a tall, graceful, and withal, a fine appearing person, and in due time will undoubtedly prove a good acquisition.

Wm. Wolff, of this city, a member of the Reform Synagogue Choir, and who has appeared very successfully in amateur operatic performances, and who played *Dick Deadeye* in Sullivan's "Pinafore" Company, which drew all its talent from this city, and which made a successful tour through New York State and Canada, has been offered engagements with the "Fatinitza" Opera Company of Boston and the Holman Opera Company of Toronto. He has accepted the terms offered by the latter company, who are to play Professor Hinton's "U. S. Regulars" and "Fatinitza." Mr. Wolff has a wonderfully rich bass voice, which, with judicious use, will yet give him a prominent position in the profession. He is young and ambitious, and with proper study and training, will be successful.

Prof. J. F. Rudolphson, of this city, will join the Standard English Opera Company, of New York, and will prove a valuable man. He is a thorough musician, being very successful as a choir singer and instructor. I do not think he has appeared in opera before. He has a baritone voice of good volume and compass.

Prof. A. Drescher and his orchestra, of this city, is very much in demand in the various cities in our vicinity. At Skaneateles, a few evenings since, he gave a very successful concert, both musically and financially.

Some of the "tony" boys of this city, assisted by the upper-ten of Auburn and Skaneateles, gave a minstrel entertainment at the same village. It being a popular summer resort, they of necessity had a fine audience.

Judging from present indications, the Grand Opera House (the old Park) will scarcely be completed by the 15th ult., and we can therefore hardly expect to hear Mary Anderson, who is to open the same at that time.

At Wieting some improvements have been made. This house is so complete that few alterations are necessary. Manager Leham has booked many of the best companies, and dates are being asked for rapidly.

The "Elysian Nights," the course of eight entertainments offered by Redpath, will probably prove successful here, although few course tickets will be sold. Every entertainment possesses some merit, but of these I will write at the proper time.

Barlow, Wilson, Primrose & West are here on the 9th, and a good house is sure to gladden them and Manager Leham.

The other places of amusement in the city are: Shakespeare Hall, Turner Hall, Prospect Hill Garden, for dramatic and other entertainments; Convention Hall, for lectures; Empire, Greeley, and Myers Halls, for dancing; and the Armory, where Gilmore's Jubilee was held, with a seating capacity of 5,000.

LYNN, MASS.

8th.—Academy of Music: Sanderson's Variety Combination appeared at this house August 7th to a fair house. The company is a good one, and are doing a good business at low prices of admission. They continue the balance of the week.

Harry Little was in town one day last week.

Twenty-four combinations have been booked up to date, and it looks as if theatricals would be lively the coming season.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

6th.—Booked: Opera House, August 25th, Professor Hartz, for a short season.

City Hall, August 11th, Pat Shay walks Mr. F. Merrieth, of Xenia, 25 miles, "go as you please," for \$25.

August 7th, the "boss" reunion of several companies takes place at the Fair Grounds.

The RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY can be had at Charles H. Pierce & Co.'s, Market street.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

2d.—Although this part of the year is noted for stagnation in theatrical affairs, two or three good attractions have occupied the opera house lately.

Haverly's Mastodons came 23d and 24th and took the town by storm. On both nights the house was so crowded that only standing room could be obtained. It was something our people had been longing to see—a first class minstrel troupe. And they saw it. If the big 40 had staid a week they would have drawn crowded houses. As it was they carried off about \$1600 of the taxpayers money.

But the event of the season, to judge by the advertisements, was the appearance of the May Fisk Blondes. They came the 28th and 29th. Owing to suggestive handbills and newspaper puffs there was a crowded house the first night. You know the kind of audience that gathers to see such a show. There was great disappointment because the show was not saucy enough. It was nothing but the usual variety show—only it was a poor one. During the progress of the show a row occurred, of course. The stage manager of the troupe, J. W. McGrath—stage name J. W. Mack—had made out a bill for salary against Miss Fisk and got Deputy Sheriff Harrison to attach the receipts in the box office. His wife had done likewise, and had placed her little bill in the hands of officer Tim Mullins. When Mullins arrived and found all the money attached he went for the baggage. Then May made Rome howl. It would not do to repeat her expressions here, but they were such as would do justice to any fish-woman.

After the close of the performance May Fisk was found on the streets full of Minnesota whiskey, and was locked up to cool off, together with her escort. During the night she set fire to her cell and was pretty nearly scorched. The next day she was fined \$5 and costs, which she was with difficulty induced to pay.

During the day the difficulty with McGrath and his wife was settled. The blondes appeared to a poor house in the evening and next day moved on to storm Minneapolis. It is to be hoped we have seen the last of such disgraceful crowds that claim to be actors and actresses.

In common with the rest of humanity, we have heard of Pinafore. But we have not heard the last of it. Next week J. H. Haverly brings his Chicago Church Choir Pinafore Company for three nights and a matinee. It is claimed to be one of the best troupes performing Pinafore and will no doubt be greeted with fine houses.

What the next dramatic season will bring, is hard to tell. But with the great number of combinations starting out from New York and elsewhere we ought to get something good.

We have, promised, at the Opera House in September Rice's Evangeline troupe, and later in the season McCullough, Fanny Davenport, Mary Anderson and Emma Abbott's English Opera.

The opera house will continue under the management John X. Davidson. Johnny, as he is called, is an energetic manager, and he will no doubt try to please his patrons in the future as he has done in the past.

The old varieties on the corner of St. Peter and Third streets will open in September, under the management of Pat Conly.

The Summer Garden Theatre still keeps it up with the help of beer and ice water.

The Athenæum Theatre will continue to give occasional representations of German plays and operas the coming season. The first on the bills is a German version of Pinafore.

MADISON, WIS.

6th.—In opera we are to have Janauschek September 1, John McCullough and company September 10, 11, 12, and not least, May Fisk and her Blondes are booked for a return visit State Fair week, commencing September 8.

BATAVIA, N. Y.

Barlow, Wilson, Primrose and West Minstrels 1st, to good house, and a well pleased audience. Nothing booked for Opera House. Coup's Circus is billed for Utica Aug. 14th.

PHILADELPHIA.

At the Broad Street Theatre Ford and Zimmerman count another triumph in the representation of "Fatinitza" given by the juvenile company.

The initial performance of "Fatinitza" was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic audience, and the singing and acting of the children certainly surpassed expectation. A much more difficult composition is "Fatinitza" than the well beloved "Pinafore," a fact that renders the result achieved all the more surprising.

Although the troupe throughout deserves high praise, pronounced excellence may be claimed for Richard Schmidt as *Kautchukoff*, John Smith as *Julian*, William Smith as *Izzet*, Charles Minchin as *Vladimir*, and George Sehnert as the funny *Mustapha*.

Richard Schmidt and the Smith boys, the twins, are particularly striking. Young Schmidt has a strong voice, and as the *General* he sang and acted with a force that an adult would find it difficult to excel. He is also a handsome boy and wears his costume with considerable dash.

Wm. Smith doubles the parts of *Izzet Pasha* and *Steppan*, and acquits himself well.

Charles Minchin as *Vladimir* gives us a pure, sweet voice, and sings correctly and with infinite taste the music that falls to his share.

George Sehnert as *Mustapha* is an exact copy of F. A. Tannehill, Jr., and to say as much is simply to proclaim him admirable.

Little Lillie Parsloe appears as the *Princess Lydia*, and certainly accomplishes her task in a manner that commands approval.

The choruses are full and excellent. "Fatinitza" has been very prettily mounted and costumed throughout. Motley are the dresses worn by the cadets in the burlesque scene, where a drill most cleverly taught and ably carried out has been introduced.

On Wednesday afternoon the company from the North Broad witnessed the juvenile performance of "Fatinitza," and liberally applauded the little folks.

The theatrical season has, in Philadelphia, virtually commenced. When these lines are read the Mordaunt-Boniface Combination will reign at the Walnut, which on the eleventh opens to close no more until next summer. I have already in your columns announced a long list of attractions heralded by Mr. Goodwin. "Andre Portier" the play to be produced on the first of September, will run two weeks after which Colville Folly Troupe, Smith and Mestayer's Pullman Car Company, Black Crook by the Kalfy Company (a prospect of a probable run of four weeks), Adelaide Neilson, Rice Surprise Party, Emma Abbott's English Opera Company, Rice Evangeline Company, John McChlough, and Fanny Davenport, who will doubtless bring us the "Child Stealer."

This list of attractions will bring us to January 1, 1880, and plenty of fine entertainment is promised by the same.

Mrs. George Goodwin the wife of the popular manager is, as I have already told you an amateur artist. The lady has already painted two pictures of lively Lotta, and is now completing a third, which will represent the bright-eyed comedienne as she appears in the second act of "La Cigale."

Everybody here said Mrs. Lizzie Crease would not appear upon the stage this season, it was even rumored that she was engaged to a well-known merchant of this city. Mrs. Crease now announces that she has accepted the position of juvenile lady in Mary Anderson's company.

The doors of the Park Theatre still remain closed and improvements are progressing rapidly. An entire new stage will be constructed, which will be 50 feet by 47 feet, nearly as large as the Walnut, and sufficiently large to produce any spectacular piece or drama.

On the 15th of September "The Banker's Daughter" will inaugurate the opening for 1879-80. The company will, it is said, include C. R. Thorne, jr., and the members of the Union Square Theatre Company; reports, however, conflict, and the Collier Combination will, it is thought by many, offer in the play named. Lotta comes to the Park at the conclusion of her New York engagement. Ada Cavendish, Joe Emmett and John T. Raymond are among the stars named.

The re-opening of the Arch street Theatre for the autumn and winter season is named for early in September. The purifying process of general cleansing is now in progress.

Chas. H. Brown has made application for the Museum, corner of Ninth and Arch streets, for next season. He proposes to make it a first-class legitimate theatre. Properly managed there is plenty of money in the Museum, but liberality, regeneration must hold sway. Col. Wood, while he played a good company, and displayed a liberal spirit, filled his theatre with an excellent class of people, and made money. The Museum has stood sadly in need of good management.

The Chestnut Theatre will open on 25th inst. for a preliminary season of one week. The Rice Surprise Party will be the treat. On September 1st the regular season will be inaugurated with "The Palace of Truth."

Items of news run as follows:

Manager Crossy, of the "North Broad" has discarded bill-boards, preferring it is stated, to devote the money to extra advertising in the newspapers. Some one says bill-boards belong to the past.

Nellie Barbour has married Mark Smith. Both are now, or were recently, at Lorne Cottage, Atlantic City, visiting the mother of the bride.

It is announced that a Miss Grubb, a pupil of Mrs. E. L. Davenport, proposes to star the coming season. Mrs. Davenport did speak of opening in this city a Dramatic School on a grand scale. Should she accept the engagement offered her at Booth's Theatre, this plan will, of course, of necessity be abandoned. Of course you have heard that Fanny Davenport has purchased the residence of F. S. Elliott, situated at about half a mile from Canton, Va., the cost of same being \$4,500. The lady also owns considerable acres of land near Canton. By an eye-witness the wedding of Fanny Davenport is described as being "one of the most quiet but beautiful weddings." No one can doubt the beauty of the bride.

M. L. J.

UTICA, N. Y.

9th.—Barlow, Wilson, Primrose and West will hold forth at this place on the 13th. Jamie Redpath has booked the following with manager Abercrombie: Emma Abbott, Criterion Comedy Co., Rice's Surprise Party, Salisbury Troubadours, Berger Family and Sol Smith Russell, Haverly's Juvenile Pinafore Co., Helen Potter, Felix Regamy, The Swedish Fady Quartet, and Robson and Crane. By the way, W. H. Crane has been spending a few days in the city with friends.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

9th. The heat has moderated somewhat in this locality, but nevertheless gnats and mosquitos "thick as leaves in Vallambrosa," still infest the air to such an extent as to make comic opera at one dollar *per capita* an unnecessary luxury. Whether the music furnished by the "skeeters" is selections from the eternal "Pinafore" or "Fatinitza," most people do not stop to inquire; it is equally acceptable (?).

The process of renovation in various theatres is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, Trimble's Varieties being now completed. It presents quite a neat, tasty appearance, and will probably open Sept. 1, under management of Murray Trimble, unless leased to some other party previous to that time. The Opera House will not open this month as previously announced. The opening date and attraction, although settled, are withheld for the present in deference to the wishes of the management. The Academy of Music will open Sept. 8th, with strong variety attraction. Manager Gotthold has completed his arrangements, and will open with his combination about Sept. 1, at Toronto, Canada, the attraction being "The Octoroon." Coup's Circus will appear in this city shortly, but withhold date for reasons satisfactory to their agent. Will give date next week.

Mr. Bartley Campbell has written a new play entitled "My Partner," for Louis Aldrich and Chas. T. Parsloe. They will probably go on the road with a combination after playing in New York for a season, having been offered engagements by three metropolitan managers. The play is pronounced a strong one, chaste and refined in tone, and extremely meritorious from a literary standpoint, and free from the sensational style common to the "border drama." The scene is laid in California. Time, present decade.

Lovers of Aquatic sports have been looking forward to

a rare treat in the regatta which came off yesterday and to-day over the "Hulton course." There were two races: the first for amateurs, two miles, and the second for professionals, three miles, besides the race on shore between the various "wheel of fortune" men and "chuck-a-luck" men, to see who who could skin the unwary out of the greatest amount of cash.

There was but little interest manifested in the amateur race outside of the personal friends of the scullers. The race was won by Babbitt, time 15.40. There being too many oarsmen entered to row conveniently at one time, they were divided into heats, which were rowed on Friday. The professionals were drawn for the heats, and choice of position in the order named, to-wit: First heat, Ed. Powell, Geo. Lee, Alonzo Schaeffer, Robert Brown and Frenchy A. Johnston, with Johnston the favorite in the pools. Second heat: Fred A. Plaisted, Cyrus H. Coulter, Pat Luther and Nick Layberger. Third heat: John A. Kennedy, Andy Siebert, James H. Riley, and W. J. Morrow, with Riley the favorite at big odds. The first heat was won by Johnston, as anticipated, in 20 minutes and 30 seconds, with Lee second. The time would probably have been a little less, had Frenchy not broken his seat-slide. Fred Plaisted was the winner of the second heat. Time, 21 minutes, Layberger second. This heat was uninteresting, as it was very plain to the eye of even the uninitiated that it was only child's play for Plaisted. The only man drawn in this heat who probably could have pushed him any was Pat Luther, and he did not put in an appearance. He gave no reason, simply declining to row, leaving people to infer what they pleased. It was rumored, however, that his boat was not good enough. The third and last heat was the most interesting, being a good race from the start to the finish. The odds were on Riley, and it was expected he would get away with the balance of them pretty easily, nobody having any idea that Kennedy and Siebert would show up as well as they did. They surprised folks. It was a tight race between the three of them, there being less than two boat lengths between them most of the time. The heat was won by Riley in 19 minutes and 25 seconds, with Kennedy second, but it is a question whether or not Siebert would have taken second place had he not met with an accident in running into some swamp grass near the shore. As it was he extricated himself and gave Kennedy a smart chase for second place. It was at first arranged that only the winners of the heats should start in the final race to-day, but this arrangement was changed at the request of the rowers, and those holding second place also allowed to participate in the final struggle to-day. There was considerable delay in getting started to-day, the professional race not being called until almost six o'clock. When the men drew up to the starting point, Frenchy Johnston was found missing. The reason given was that some vandal had punched a hole in his boat, and that there was a scheme on foot to keep him from winning the race at any cost. He is suspected, however, of being himself instrumental in disabling the boat. When positions were tossed for, the men drew into line in the following positions: Lee, Riley, Layberger, Kennedy, Plaisted. Riley forged ahead at the start, keeping his lead all the way down to the turning buoy, with Kennedy second and Lee third, Plaisted and Layberger following. There was a sharp contest between Lee and Kennedy for second place on the way down, both men keeping well together for about a mile. After turning the buoys the positions changed slightly by Kennedy pulling ahead of his antagonist and keeping the lead to the finish. Riley crossed the line about a length and a half ahead, in 20 minutes and 27 seconds. He pulled steadily all the way down, around the buoy and to the finish, making no attempt to spurt until near the line, when he seemed to make some effort to let more daylight between himself and Kennedy, who also put forth all his energy in a vain attempt to close the gap. Plaisted might have had a better position in the race had he been in better condition. The reason given, on good authority, was, that he was engaged in drinking beer at one of the booths, for some time previous, and up to the moment he entered his boat; consequently, he has no one to blame for his defeat but himself.

The discrepancy in time made yesterday and to day was due to difference in length of course, four hundred yards having been added to make it full three miles. The race was apparently a fair one, there being no hint of a job

from those best calculated to know about it, had there been one.

The Fifth Avenue is being occupied this evening by Edward O'Meagher Condon, the lately liberated Fenian convict, in an address to his countrymen in relation to their duty to oppressed Ireland.

THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY is for sale every Friday morning at Edgar's and Pittock's, Fifth Ave., and at Hartzell's, Sixth Street.

DAVENPORT, IA.

Emerson's Megetherians held forth at the Burtis Opera House to a fair audience Aug. 5th. Route: Rock Island, Ill., Aug. 6th; Peoria, 7th; Bloomington, 8th; Lafayette, Ind., 9th.

J. H. Haverly's Church Choir Pinafore Company at Burtis Opera House Aug. 13th.

Howe's Great London Show will exhibit here Sept. 2d.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

9th.—The theatres awoke from the summer depression on Monday last, the Academy presenting the well-known "Pinafore," by the Bennett English Opera Co., a new organization possessing a fair amount of talent, Miss Eva Mills, the original *Josephine*, appearing in that role with marked success. The Opera drew crowded houses each evening.

Dan Selby, at the "Adelphi," presented an attractive bill, embracing a variety of excellent talent, and the performers were of Dan's usual stamp; Miss Lillie Western and the Suydams, Miss Victoria North being frequently encored.

Crowded houses, as usual.

The Emerson "Megatharian" Minstrels are billed for 18th and 19th, and Miss Jane Coombs for the 28th, 29th and 30th.

The Park Theatre Co. will produce "Engaged" for one week, commencing Sept. 1st, followed by Miss Mattie Vickers and Charles Rogers' Combination on the 8th.

The races during the week drew all the strangers and a majority of the natives to the driving park, although the air has been full of rumors that there was lots of "horn-swogging" but that is the usual cry of the losers.

The Buffalo Base Ball Club after ten successive victories over the strongest of the league clubs, was beaten by the Chicagos on Thursday last; still they are pulling up wonderfully towards the head, and may yet take the pennant.

DAYTON, O.

9th.—Music Hall. The Soldier's Home Dramatic Corps gave "Divorce" to a large audience this afternoon. They appear here again on the 26th.

Memorial Hall. The stock company gave three matinees and one evening performance the past week to crowded houses. On the 16th they play "The Two Orphans." They will remain about three weeks longer.

Theatre Comique. The attractions are Harry Evans, Frank Vannetta, Willie Kelly, Emma Evans and Maude Leighton. Mr. George R. Long, former treasurer of this place has become the advance agent of Reed Bros' Minstrels, a party organized here for a 26 weeks' season, composed of the following people: Wm. and Ned Reed, proprietors; Frank Overly, leader of Orchestra, Misses Blanche La Rose, Ada St. Clair, Lou Belmont, Nora De Judge, and Messrs. Horace Crispin, Larry O'Neil, Dick Coleman, Dan Sullivan, Chas. French, Frank J. O'Leary, Geo. F. Gilfoil, Frank DeJudge, Eb. Fiddler, Murray Hoff, F. M. Baker, and Harry Ward. Open at Greenfield, North Carolina, August 25th. Soldiers' Home, at this place.

There will be a double balloon ascension on the 20th, by Prof. J. K. Allen and Prof. Jos. Allen, both of Providence, R. I.

At Weiderer's Garden, the popular Thursday and Sunday evening concerts still draw large crowds of people.

Manager Mead, of the Music Hall has a young son.

Wolf Bros., the old reliable bill-posters, are putting up some new boards and repairing all others, so as to be ready for the season as soon as it opens.

(Continued on 14th page.)

The "Ecce Homo" of Correggio.

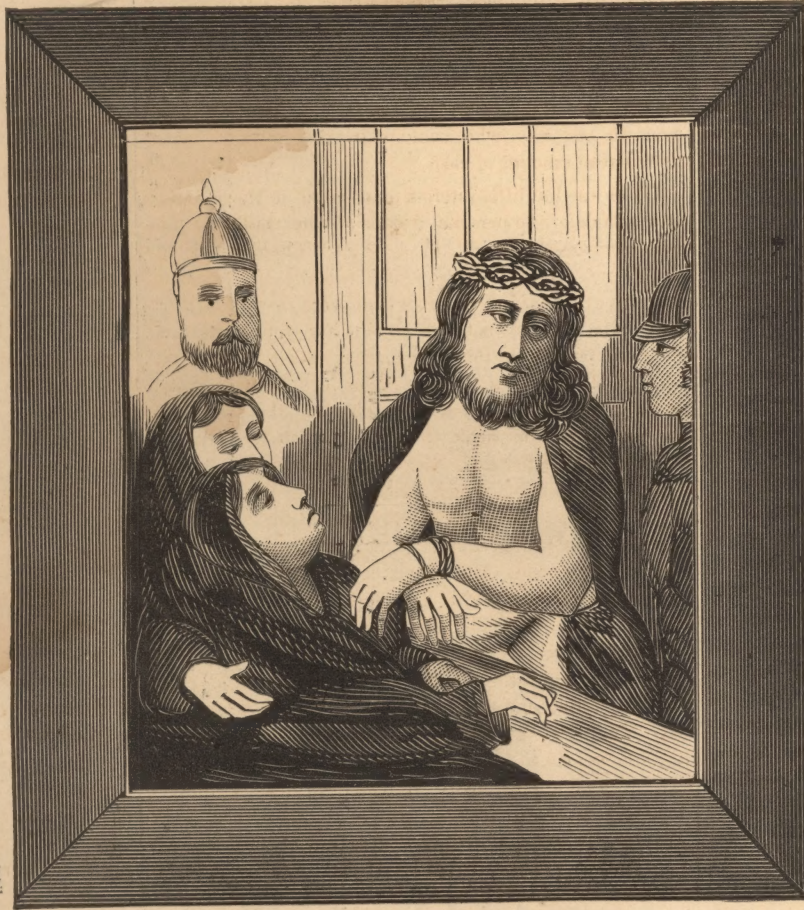
There stands at the present time, on an easel, in the main hall of the Brighton Beach Hotel, a superb example of the style of this great painter of a famous era, whose reputation for form and color will endure, we venture to predict, as long as the race of articulately-speaking men shall endure upon this planet. There are in literature a few great names that will never die. Such are the names of Homer and Shakespeare. The influence of these two immortals widens with each century that is added to the world's age. Lesser poets fade from memory. There must be a limit to even Virgil, Dante, Tasso, Wordsworth and Tennyson, but to Homer and Shakespeare never. And what we predicate of these ever-burning lights of literature, we may also predicate of the two great luminaries of the Italian school of painting, Raphael and Correggio, of whom the greatest is Correggio; because, unlike his great co-laborer, he did not wholly commit his genius to frescoes

upon plaster, but placed it upon canvass, enriched with those priceless secrets of color which make his work, already so many centuries old, as fresh as if done but yesterday.

The lofty impulse of Correggio, sad and solitary, found its best expression in the delineation of mournful scenes. He left to lesser men the portrayal of fawns and satyrs, of laughing Cupids and capricious Venuses. Profoundly impressed with the deep import of his Catholic faith, he sought in the life of Jesus Christ, the great head of the church, whose worship at the epoch when the artist lived was just bursting into fresh bloom, evidenced by such works as the meditations of Thomas a Kempis, the most emphatic exercise of his supreme gifts of color and drawing. The *Ecce Homo* is by common consent the bright consummate flower of his skill, among his smaller works. We have passed hours before it, and we find, as is the case with all great efforts of the imagination, whether it be a book of the Iliad of Homer or a Hamlet of Shakespeare, that the more you examine and contemplate the work the more its fascinations take you in their grasp.

In this painting there are five figures, a Roman soldier, a centurion, two women and the thorn-crowned figure of Jesus Christ himself. The latter, of course, occupies the central part of the canvas, and largely fills its area, the whole canvas occupying perhaps thirty-six by forty inches. There is no halo about the head; Correggio was far too superior an artist to use such dubious means of illustrating his work. If there is a "divinity that hedges a king," much more must there be one that hedges a Christ; nor could an aureole be properly painted about the head of one presented to the world with these words, "Behold the Man!"

We can convey to the mind of the reader by words no adequate conception of the face and figure of the Jesus of Correggio. We may indeed say of the face that it expresses, with rare art, no nationality. It is purely and sub-



limely human; it expresses neither anger nor impatience, on'y the supreme of resignation, and the superiorities of vast and unmeasured forbearance. The wrists are crossed and lightly manacled, the breast is bare, the attitude negligent and slightly stooping. You would say of this noble and suffering man that he had done with earth, and was conscious that unfold sufferings yet to come, "Were with their sullen thunders laboring up."

The centurion at the left is a superb specimen of a martinet, an under officer, with a duty to perform, which is performed with strict though narrow zeal. It is his duty to see that his solitary detailed soldier does not permit the prisoner to escape and beyond this he has no further care.

Antonio Allegri was born at Correggio near Modena, Italy, in 1494. Known in his first fame throughout Southern Europe as Antonio Allegri da (of) Correggio, he has become historical by the name of Correggio. He early studied the works of Leonardo da Vinci, and was impressed by the genius of that superb painter whom it was his destiny to excel. Although his noblest work was not done in fresco, still he executed such exquisite designs upon convent walls in Parma, Modena and Mantua, that Titian, gazing at them, said, "If I were not Titian, I would be Correggio." Correggio died in 1534, having accomplished his splendid destiny at the early age of 40.

The especial characteristics of this great artist are originality; a perfect mastery of the anatomy and outlines of the human figure, variety of treatment, and an ineffably delicate graduation of light and shades, so that in the art known as *Chiaroscuro* no one has ever been the equal or second of Correggio. In the picture now under consideration these attributes of the great artist are conspicuously exhibited.

His principal works extant and authenti-

cally accredited are, in the Louvre at Paris, the "Marriage of St. Catherine" and the "Antiope;" in the Naples gallery the "Madonna" and the "Zingarella;" in the Vienna gallery, two; in the Berlin gallery, three; at Parma, five. The "Ecce Homo" was formerly owned in England, and its exhibition brought many thousands of pounds to its owner; it then became the property of Cardinal Fesch at Rome, and was purchased at the sale of his gallery by RICHARD K. HAIGHT, a well known society man and merchant of New York city (Haight, Hulsey & Co.), whose gallery at his mansion corner of Fifth Avenue and East 15th street, contained one of the most superb collections on the continent. Mr. Haight paid at the sale in Rome fifteen thousand dollars for this painting.

As much of the value of an antique depends at least with the majority of buyers and collectors, upon the authenticity of the painting,

it will be competent for any one to investigate the genuineness of this "Ecce Homo," and for that purpose the details of this sale have been given in full.

This picture is now in the possession of the Gibbons Art Gallery, of 1160 Broadway, and has been by the proprietors placed on view at the Brighton Beach Hotel for the purpose of being disposed of by lot or raffle on the 28th of August. There are 1,500 tickets, each three dollars, and whereas in the case of an ordinary lottery, whoever should buy *all* the tickets would be sure to lose over one third of his investment, and therefore the fewer he buys the better; on the contrary, in this case, whoever should buy all the tickets would get a masterpiece of art at less than one quarter of its real value, and therefore the more tickets anyone buys the better it is for his interests.

The plan adopted by the American Art Union which did so much for American painters, was quite similar to the present plan, only the tickets were five dollars and each buyer became entitled to an engraving. The reduced price of the tickets in this case fully compensates for the absence of an engraving.

Tickets can be had at the Gibbons Art Gallery, 1160 Broadway; at Brighton Beach Hotel, at the office of the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY, or of any of its correspondents throughout the Union. We have no pecuniary interest in the picture, but we wish the enterprise well, because we wish this superb work of art to remain in the United States.

FROM present appearances it seems to be the intention of every actor or actress who during the past season made a character hit to organize a company and take the road as a star. But one good can possibly arise from this: the hard-working, conscientious stock actor will be in greater demand, and consequently will have at least one satisfactory season. As for the "stars," a few weeks at the furthest will show the mistake in this wholesale movement.

(Continued from 12th page.)

AKRON, O.

The season here will be opened in September by Joe Jefferson, followed by Maggie Mitchell, Gotthold's Octoroon, Mordaunt and Boniface, Alice Oates, Katie Putnam, Fred Paulding, Buffalo Bill, Emerson's Minstrels, John McCulloch, Criterion Comedy Co., Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Weathersby, Philadelphia Church Choir Pinafore Company.

The reorganization of the Cushman Club has been perfected, and is as follows:

President, Chas. E. Perkins, Secretary; Mrs. Mark Hayne, Treasurer; Hugo Schumacker; Manager; N. C. Chiswell; Executive Committee, N. C. Chiswell, Wm. H. Sperling, A. T. Saunders. The by-laws are to be revised at an early date, and changes incorporated which will best meet the wants of the club. Under the new management an increase in membership is also looked for, all of which will tend to establish the organization on a firmer basis, and recommend it anew to the favor of every one. The Club is now preparing "The Streets of New York," by Dion Boucicault, as their opening piece. A strenuous effort is being made to present this by the middle of Sept. A goodly number of those interested in the formation of a Base Ball Association assembled in the Cadet Club rooms yesterday evening. The meeting was presided over by L. D. Seward, with Irwin Tomlinson as Secretary. Officers were elected and measures adopted looking to uniforming of the Club and obtaining suitable grounds so that the day is not far distant when we can boast of a first-class nine. The following officers were elected: President, R. C. Knight; Secretary and Manager, Chas. H. Matthews; Treasurer, Clarence Howland; Directors, A. Glick, A. L. Dyke, L. D. Seward, C. R. Knight and L. N. Jones. The Akrons are having a fine uniform made by Wm. H. Sperling.

TROY, N. Y.

8th.—The only thing in the line of Opera or Drama in Troy or vicinity, of late, was the Children's Opera Co. in "Pinafore" at Cohoes. This Co. was formed in Albany last fall, and for children much can be said in their favor, both in singing and acting. A walking match will come off at the Troy Coliseum Aug. 11, 100 miles and \$250 a side. Smith and Mullen are the contestants.

Curiosity called out about 2,000 Trojans on the 8th, to see two female base ball clubs play at the national game. When we consider how poorly nature has fitted a female for throwing a missile, we could not but wonder at the execution of some of those players, which was really good.

WHEELING, W. VA.

7th.—The city of Wheeling is at its dullest just now in a dramatic and musical way. Both Opera House and Washington Hall are closed, and there is nothing on the programme until August 30th, when the Opera House will be opened with Agnes Wallace's Villa Opera Company, and Joe Jefferson on the 2d of Sept.

TITUSVILLE, PA.

Aug. 8.—On Monday last, Aug. 4th, the pupils of St. Joseph's Academy, gave Mr. George Moss a benefit, to a large and fashionable audience. They presented "Pinafore" again with many improvements. The first part of the entertainment consisted of a grand Ballad Concert, in which Mr. Moss was assisted by quite a galaxy of local talent. Loud applause greeted the crew of the gallant craft as she swept onward on her course, with the Admiral and the Captain on the quarter deck, and Little But-tercup keeping a lookout over the behavior of Dick Dead-eye, the tars, the sisters, the cousins, and the aunts. We should not like to make invidious comparisons where all did so well, and therefore refrain from mentioning names in detail. Suffice it to say that the entertainment was a grand success.

Parshall Opera House closed. Academy of Music closed.

CINCINNATI, O.

It never was so quiet here this time of the year, as it has been this season. Nothing is going on in the way of theatricals. All managers seem to be "laying low," as it were, for the fall season. There is no doubt but what we will have more attractions in coming season than we ever have had before. Mr. Doug-

lass, who is to manage the Robinson Opera House the coming season, has returned from the East and has made satisfactory arrangement for the coming season. This theatre, built by the old circus man, John Robinson, has been (except on special occasions) occupied. It is without doubt, as pretty and cozy a theatre as there is in the West. Its location is not as good as it could be, but should it have some drawing attraction I think it could be made profitable to the manager.

The Wellington Sisters and New York Novelty Combination do not play at the Lookout Opera House this week, as I mentioned in my last. A company organized in this city, hold the boards this week at the above theatre. They played last night to a slim attendance, their play being "A Marked Life," a new title for the old drama of "The Lancashire Lass." This company will be the attraction here this week.

The "Pinafore" which is to be performed on the lake of the Zoological Garden, will not come off next Monday, as advertised. It has been postponed to some future date.

Theo. Thomas, with his orchestra of fifty performers, still continue their Tuesday and Friday evening concerts at the Highland House, which is situated on Mount Adams. They draw good attendances at each concert, and are giving much enjoyment and satisfaction to people here.

Nothing else worthy of mention at present.

HARROWING DETAILS OF PRIVATE LIFE.



I shall have to return from Saratoga soon. What if the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY does send me a check for a hundred dollars every week, on which the First National Bank allows me a premium of five per cent., and is continually calling for more? This doesn't signify. The

CONGRESS HALL bills are most reasonable, and one doesn't have to sell a house and lot to pay for a day's subsistence at Mr. Clement's bounteous table, and it doesn't absolutely ruin one to go to the races three or four times a week, and to take a bottle of BOUCHE'S MAXIMUM at dinner; but when you have had luck at the Club House on the red and black, and have to keep up with Billy Florence and Ned Sothern in all their little festive games, what is one to do with a hundred dollars a week? Either this journal must double my salary, or I must leave Saratoga, or learn some infallible system to beat the bank.

I left off last week just at the point where the confidential communications of the comedians *apropos* of the Duke of Beaufort were about to be poured into my sympathetic ear. These, by contract, were and are to go no further than the seven thousand buyers of and subscribers to the RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY; its fifteen or twenty thousand readers, its two hundred and fifty correspondents, and the untold army of dead-beats who borrow it. And now that this is clearly understood, I will proceed with my narrative.

"There is," said Sothern, tossing off a glass of Napoleon's Cabinet, "a Duke of Beaufort. I saw him once in a box at the Prince's Theatre when I was performing Dundreary. I took stock of his features accurately, for it occurred to me that I might need to reproduce him, because he is a celebrated sporting character; and a sporting character of aristocratic birth was necessary to us in our projected trip. I found a small actor at the Adelphi soon after, whose features formed an admirable back-ground on which to create our Duke of Beaufort. His name was Wilson. He played Dombey; Sir Harcourt Courtly, when better men were scarce; Rowley, and other such utility. When it was proposed to him that he should personate the Duke of Beaufort at a salary of five pounds a week, nearly twice what he was then earning, a gleam of joy lit up his dubious features; but they were soon clouded again as by a sudden reflection upon some painful subject, and he stammered, "On the 'ole, gents, Ili don't know has Hi can do it."

"Why not; aren't the wages enough?"

"Oh, yes; the pay is good, and Hi don't doubt but the vittles will be superior; but then you see Hi shall be hatted in the New York Dramatic Slush-Bucket."

"Well, what of that?"

"Well, you see, they won't stop, once they begin, till I send 'em an advertisement, and I ain't got no advertisements to send 'em."

"Tell you what, my man," said Sothern, "you can take your revenge on them by writing them a letter. This letter will be of such a nature that it will be a serious detriment to any journal to publish it; even a journal of the low type of the Dramatic Slush-Bucket would be injured by it. Should the exigencies of the case call for another letter, you will come very near to ruining them, and their circulation will fall off to that extent that the American News Company check for their weekly edition shall only amount to \$107.25. When this comes to pass they will find themselves even more unable to pay the judgments already docketed against them for damages arising out of libel suits, and will be so completely upon the limits as to be unable even to go to Coney Island and there concoct abusive letters about the hotels. What if you do never attempt to eat a plate of soup at the Manhattan Beach without finding a cock-roach in it? What if the Brighton Hotel does purvey inferior wines and serve up alleged clam chowders composed entirely of potatoes and hot water? Do these trifling peccadilloes compel one to form the laughing stock of the sixty-seven buyers and sixty-eight readers (for we must include the proof-reader) of the Dramatic Slush-Bucket?"

"By such arguments," continued Sothern, "I prevailed on Wilson to personate the Duke of Beaufort. But it has been a frightful bore. Half the time he has been drunk and the other half the time writing letters, and in either vocation he was simply detestable. His alleged visit to Newport was an invention of Billy's, for we have to locate him somewhere; but the fact is, we have kept him locked up in an upper room of the STURTEVANT HOUSE, on a short allowance of liquor, and with no allowance of pens, ink and paper at all. Hence he can't get drunk, and can't write letters. He escaped us once, and got away as far as the Madison Square Garden, where they pressed him into the service as an Italian tenor (most of their Italian tenors have been from Limerick) and paid him in promissory notes strictly warranted to lie over at maturity. We intend to ship him home on the eighteenth of the month with his salary, after which we shall tread the boards with new life, for the cuss has been an incubus and an expense to us, and nothing else, and it is an immense relief to us to be rid of him."

Such, Mr. Editor, is a plain and quite unvarnished tale, as it was told to me upon the moonlight colonnade of CONGRESS HALL. After it was concluded, we strolled over to the Club House, and entered into combat with the dear, delusive, tiger of that ilk. The tiger is a beautiful bird, and he has a bushy tail. When you put your chips on black, he turns up red; when you put your chips on red, he turns up black; and when you cover all the numbers with chips, the bullet rolls into 0 or 00, and the croupier rakes down your thirty-six chips without saying "By your leave." Send me another check by return mail, or I shall swallow a glass of Hathorn Water, and then you will be sorry. You never miss the lager till the keg runs dry, and you never know the worth of a good penny-a-liner until you lose him. J. NEGROPONTE.

CITY THEATRES.

"Pinafore" was produced at the Aquarium, Monday night, and will hereafter be performed every evening. As it is superadded to the attractions of the Aquarium, it would be ungenerous to criticise it. When a publican includes a chowder with a glass of beer, one should not criticise the chowder, even if it were as bad as the alleged chowder of the Brighton Beach Hotel. The scenery will bear improvement, and the Captain's Cabin can be made to look less like a dilapidated bathing house, by a coat of paint. Rose Parker makes a good Josephine. Capt. Corcoran should get a suit of clothes to fit him; his present suit looks as though it were made by Nicoll. The house was well filled by a pleased audience.

Harrigan & Hart, at the "Comique," performed "Mulligan Guard Chowder," to an immense house. The heat and the enthusiasm were tremendous.

GOOD WORDS.

THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY.—We notice with pleasure that our former townsman, Mr. Champion Bissell, has purchased and assumed the editorship of the *Rambler and Dramatic Weekly* of New York. The paper, as its name implies, treats on topics of general interest and makes a specialty of lyric and dramatic intelligence. Mr. Bissell is a racy writer, and many Rochesterians will be glad to extend a welcome to the *Rambler*, and renew their pleasant relations with the editor through the columns of this, his new journalistic departure.—*Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat*.

THE RAMBLER AND DRAMATIC WEEKLY is taking front rank as a theatrical journal. Success to it.—*Sunday Capital, Columbus, Ohio*.

OUR CARD COLUMN.

HOW TO PLAY POKER.

[Continued from Number 26.]

Your gains *must* be limited, but your loss *may* be total; in other words while you can never win all the property of all other players; any player or players, may win all your property. This disadvantage besets every player at cards, and especially players of small means. Hence we evolve this law, that a player of any means whatever is at a disadvantage if he plays for stakes that are a large percentage of his means; and that in any case his losses injure his capital more than his gains benefit his capital, in the proportion expressed by the following formula:

Let *a* the fortune of each player, and *b* the sum staked. Then gain is in decreasing, and loss is in increasing, ratio: the proportion of loss being always greater than that of gain:

To return to the laws of the mind that ensure success at a game of cards, they are such as, when put into operation, result in intellectual victories in other negotiations between men. The human intellect is not unworthily employed in investigating questions connected with ultimate facts, at cards. The illustrious names of Pascal, De Moivre, Cnabroet, Euler, D'Alembert, Lagrange, Leibnitz, Bernoulli and Laplace attest the real value of such investigations. It may be possible for a great intellect to aberrate into regions of trifle and inanity, but it is not to be considered possible that so many great intellects should waste time upon useless and frivolous questions. We are right, therefore, in stating that intellectual laws of the first order operate upon questions at cards, and hence upon questions at Draw-Poker. These laws go to make up the science of logic; science being a prevision, or mode of looking more clearly into the hitherto unknown, or the future, by means of co-ordinated laws, namely; the laws that regulate the mind that acts, and the laws that regulate the object of mental action.

Pure Reason, acting upon *data* more or less fixed and definite, must be relied on as the ultimate and only means of success at any game of skill like chess; or at any game of mingled skill and chance like Draw-Poker. In chess the *data* are definite, hence the results are certain; because if the reasoning powers of A are worth 10, and those of B are worth 9; and both understand the moves; with equally pure intellectual processes, A will *always* beat B. B's only chance lies in the casual aberrations of the mind of A. This is well understood among Chess-players. Draw-Poker is a game of mingled chance and skill, and A (with reasoning power of 10) could *never* be sure of beating B, (with reasoning power of 9), because he can never in any one game exactly estimate the chances; and the chances would often render it impossible for him to win at all. The most that a player can do is to eliminate chance as far as possible from the problems submitted to him.

Both the deductive and inductive methods must be employed. I hope no one will be puzzled by these words; but the processes which they describe are familiar to every mind; and we employ them both a thousand times a day without being conscious of it. It is a *deduction* from what we know of human nature that a beggar must be a troublesome person, therefore we shut our doors against him; and we do not need to be visited by five hundred beggars in order to verify the troubles which they cause. It is an *induction*, from seeing several men fall down when they are to a certain extent drunk, that a certain degree of intoxication prevents men from standing up. We could not *deduce* this from the mere nature of the two substances—alcohol and brain tissue;—nor should we be justified in asserting that all men fall when drunk, if we had only seen *one* or *two* drunken men fall. But the *induction*, that drunken men fall down has been so well established, by the instances which each person has seen, and by the uniform current of human testimony; that it is a perfectly safe basis for reasoning both upon the nature of alcohol, and upon the nature of the brain.

Both methods are used in this book in order to determine the averages of values of hands at Draw-Poker. The *inductions* begin in the shape of actual deals; the *deductions* follow; and both are found to nearly agree. Both methods must also be used in the logic which you bring

to bear upon the play of your opponents: as without this your knowledge of card values, even if accurate and ready, would not be a safe basis of play.

Deductive reasoning is the better if you are playing with comparative strangers; inductive, where you are playing with acquaintances of long standing. In the former case, you use the laws of the human mind in general as your starting point; in the latter case you start with the observations which you have accumulated upon the operations of the individual minds themselves. In the former case you have the advantage of resting upon general truths; in the latter case, you rest upon a series of experiments.

The utmost mental power and purity of reasoning, combined with the most thorough observation, and ready and precise knowledge of the averages of card values, can only give a small percentage of advantage over the average player at Draw-Poker because they only act upon the definite or certain elements of the game, and the indefinite elements are more numerous and powerful. But it does not require a large percentage to ensure a reasonable success; for we have seen that in a game of pure skill, where the elements are all certain, any percentage of A's reasoning powers over B will enable A to *always* win; and we have also seen that in games of mingled certain and uncertain elements played for money; with double skill on the part of A, as compared to B, it is nearly thirteen to one that A ruins B. Reduce A's skill to a single five per cent. over B's skill; he will then ruin B if they play long enough, having chances in his favor of nearly thirteen to ten. The student of the Draw-Poker game should therefore only be satisfied with his prospects when he has thoroughly mastered the game, and has trained his intellect to bring logic to bear upon its principles and phenomena. He will thus feel a constant sense of security amid all possible fluctuations that occur, and he will also abstain from pressing an ignorant or an intellectually weak opponent, beyond what may be necessary either for the purpose of playing the game correctly, or of punishing presumption.

Fortified in this manner also, a player can bear with equal equanimity all the chances of the game, for as science increases fear diminishes. The comprehension of the relations of laws to each other that bear upon any subject in which we are interested; and finally of the great law to which they are all subject; not only rids the mind of any fears which unexplained phenomena produce, but also fill the mind with a peculiar and genuine satisfaction. Nothing is more disagreeable to the instructed player than the complaints of players who lament their ill-luck, unless it be the self-congratulations of players who happen to be in good luck. To feel emotions over such incidents is unworthy of a man; and it is much more unworthy to express them. But no words need be wasted over practices which all men despise in others; and, in their reflecting moments, lament in themselves.

CHAPTER XII.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the average value of the *entrance*, I will quote a few sentences from Robert Houdin, as being the ideas of a European Card-Player. In this place I neither dissent nor assent; quoting them that the reader may take them at what they are worth.

"To make these explanations more intelligible, I ought, in the first place to establish the following aphorism: 'That all games of chance present two kinds of chances perfectly distinct; those which belong to the player, and those which are inherent in the combinations of the game.'"

The chances in favor of the player are represented by two mysterious agents, known by the names of loss and gain, or perhaps by the more characteristic ones of good and ill-luck.

"The chances of the game are termed probabilities.

"A probability is the relation which exists between the number of chances favorable to a result, and the sum total of possible chances.

"Some celebrated authors have written clever works on these same probabilities, but, in consequence of their profound depth and multiplicity, these calculations are of no earthly use to the player.

"Besides, all systems of probabilities may be advantageously replaced by the following theory:

"If chance should happen to bring every possible combination of the game, there are, notwithstanding, certain limits, where it must cease.

"In a game of hazard, the oftener a number comes up, the more probable it is that it will not come up the next coup.

"This is the groundwork of all the theories of probabilities; and is termed the maturity of chances."

"After what I have stated, it is evident that, in order to succeed, a person must only continue to play when he is fortunate at the commencement, and must also only risk his money, at the instant prescribed by the rules of the maturity of chances.

Mr. Poe also says of the value of mathematical investigations into chances:

"I dispute the availability, and thus the value, of that reason which is cultivated in any especial form other than the abstractly logical. I dispute, in particular, the reason deduced by mathematical study. The mathematics are the science of form and quantity; mathematical reasoning is merely logic applied to observation upon form and quantity. The great error lies in supposing that even the truths of what is called *pure algebra* are abstract or general truths. And in short I never yet encountered the mere mathematician who could could be trusted out of equal roots, or one who did not clandestinely hold it as a point of his faith that *x* was absolutely and unconditionally equal to *y*. Say to one of these gentlemen, by way of experiment, if you please, that you believe occasions may occur where *x* is *not* altogether equal to *y*, and, having made him understand what you mean, get out of his reach as speedily as convenient, for, beyond doubt, he will endeavor to knock you down."

Upon page 193 of Mr. Houdin's work the reader will find that the statements in an early part of this volume, as to the advantage possessed by the card sharper in being able to distinguish the bottom card by the sense of feeling, are fully corroborated. He says, among other things: "The higher class of sharps are much in the habit of using this trick, which they perform with a sensitiveness of touch of *astounding delicacy*." This circumstance, which I knew nothing at all about until the summer of 1874, explains many phenomena at Draw-Poker; and renders the use of the "Blank Card" advisable in all card parties, as tending to keep the dealer, like Caesar's wife, "above suspicion."

For the purpose of bringing the hand before the eye of the reader, I have printed several analyses of tables. Let the reader carefully study them when he is tempted to complain of his ill-luck, and that he cannot get any cards to go in on. Many of these hands are totally barren; as fruitless as any that any player has ever held, or ever will hold; hence you have a precedent here for all ill-luck, as well as for all good-luck. A player will often assert that he is specially marked as a prey to misfortune; that other people can get good cards and he *never* can; with which complaints, and others like them, my readers are familiar. All such repinings will disappear upon a close perusal of these tables, and a philosophical composure will be induced, such as Horace recommended eighteen hundred years ago.

"Æquum memento rebus in arduis
Servare mentem, non secus in bonis
Ab insolenti temperatam
Lætitiâ, moriture Delli.

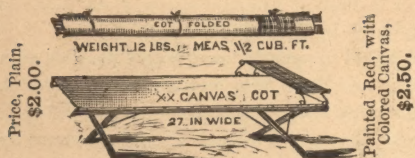
Omnes eodem cogimur, omnium
Versatur urna serius, ocius,
Sors exitura, et nos in aeternum,
Exsilium in positura cymbæ.

Which, being freely translated, will carry this meaning, which is of great value to the Poker-Player:

"Friend Delli, you cannot live forever, and while you do live, let me advise you to preserve an unruffled serenity in ill-luck, and to restrain yourself from extravagant joy when Fortune smiles on you.

Because the laws of averages control all of us; sooner or later the fatal black-die tumbles out of the dice-box, and gives us a ticket, willy-nilly to the master of ceremonies in connection with funerals."

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